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ZONE

MIDLANDS EDITION

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PRIDE EVENTS

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HORWOOD**
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WITH THE GAY ANNIE STAR
AND STRICTLY JUDGE

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Craig Revel Horwood

Craig's currently, er, revelling in the rave reviews he's getting for starring as the emotionally challenged Miss Hannigan in a new touring production of *Annie*.

Recently catching up with him to talk about this latest role, Midlands Zone was pleased to discover that, in direct contrast to his well-managed public persona,

Craig is really rather nice...

"As for same-sex couples in *Strictly*, I say bring it on."



What appeals to you most about the role of Miss Hannigan, Craig?

I like the fact she's a villain, I love playing villains because they're just a lot more fun. There's a lot of depth to the character, which is good too. I also find the fact she's a gin-swilling woman who lusts after men and hates children attractive.

So what qualities do you have that make you ideal for the role?

I play her just as any actor would play her. I've invested in the character and hopefully the audience will believe in me. It's not a drag role, it's just me playing Miss Hannigan, that's all. There's no sight of Craig Revel Horwood in the show at all.

So how did the chance to play the part come about? Were you surprised to be approached? Was it an instant yes from you or did you need some time to think about it?

When I was first approached, my initial thought was that they were going to ask me to direct and choreograph. I'd done panto but hadn't done any serious acting for a long time, because I love directing and I love choreographing. I took a week to think it over. I read the script and really did love the character, so I thought, 'Yeah, why not, let's give it a bash and see how we get on'. That's how it came about and it's been a huge success.

Where did your research for Miss Hannigan take you?

I have an alcoholic father, so I'm quite 'in the know' about alcoholism. I know how alcoholics react because I lived with it as a child and grew up with it. I guess I'm a fountain of knowledge when it comes to that sort of thing. I've played women before. I once created a character called Lavish, but that was just for clubs so is slightly different to what I'm doing here. For Miss Hannigan, I studied the New York accent and visited an accent coach for guidance.

How're you finding the heels and make-up?

I've danced in heels before. I was doing a show where I first learned to dance as a woman, because it's very different to dancing as a man. Heels, of course, are a very big part of that, so I had a lot of blisters to begin with. They've subsided now and I've got used to it. Quite frankly, it's like putting on a pair of slippers now. I apply all my make-up myself. It took me a while initially but with practice it becomes faster. I arrive ninety minutes before the show and it takes that long to get ready.

You've got a proven record when it comes to dancing, choreography and directing, but how's your singing?

I think it's fantastic! I love it because it's right in my key and all the keys were specifically chosen for my vocal ability. It's something I used to do way back when anyway. I was in Miss Saigon for a long time, and I was also in Cats. At the end of the day, though, it's up to the person who's listening, not me, to make a decision on my vocal ability, but I do enjoy it.

They say you should never work with children or animals. How're you finding the experience?

Yes, they would be right! They're unpredictable, but the kids in the show are absolutely incredible and are really, really talented. There are three different Annies and three groups of orphans who play three days each. Each group then has a week off, so it works out perfectly well. They're tutored on the road as well, so that's pretty cool. They're actors and aspiring actors who've been selected from all over the UK and who want to go on and do this as a career, so they've been trained very, very well.

Do you have a pre-show routine that you go through to get into character?

Miss Hannigan opens the show at four o'clock in the morning, absolutely slaughtered out of her head - so I can't completely get into character until I'm at the door, otherwise I'd be falling all over the place! Mainly I just concentrate. I have a bit of quiet time before getting into character and going on stage.

Do you suffer pre-show nerves?

I always do because it's a live crowd and you never know what's going to happen. Each audience is different and the show itself is a little bit different every day, but I do think it's good to be nervous. It's my job to get up there, to play the character and play the part well, so I do get nervous.

Where are you most comfortable - in front of or behind the stage?

I prefer being in the dark, making people better, than performing, but that's because I've had such a long step off the stage - apart from with panto, of course. It's been great and I've loved being on tour. Every week is different. We get to go to another place and discover these lovely cities all over again. I'm enjoying that side of it.

As you mentioned earlier, you enjoy playing the villain. You played the Wicked Queen in Snow White, now Miss Hannigan in Annie, and later this year you'll be playing Captain Hook in Peter Pan. Do you ever yearn to play someone who's nice?

No, not at all. I like the villains. They get the best lines and the best parts. Being dark, sometimes sinister, is much more fun; far better than playing some boring old love interest.

Do you ever get tired of being called 'Craig Revel Horrid'?

No, I don't care. It's like water off a duck's back.

Has being back on the stage given you a taste for more in the future?

Yeah, definitely. I would most certainly consider doing it again, as I've enjoyed it enormously. It would be great to do a West End run, but we'll see what happens in the future. That's the beauty of this business and why I like it so much. You never know what you're going to be doing or what opportunities there will be. As

one door opens, another one closes and vice versa, so it's all very good.

What are your initial thoughts about the quality of this year's Strictly contestants?

Well, some of them can actually dance, which is a delight. I'm seeing some really lovely lines, some lovely arms and some lovely feet, so that's good. A couple of them got in a few high kicks too, which is wonderful. Then, equally, there are people who don't have much rhythm - so it should be fun seeing the dancers teaching them. Peter Andre looks like he'll be good. I suppose he could become a finalist because of his popularity - as well as the fact he can move quite well. He certainly looks like a front runner.

Who would be your ideal contestant on a future show?

Simon Cowell. He would be fantastic. That would be excellent.

Which previous dancer and/or routine still gives you a chuckle?

Ann Widdecombe. She's funny. I just think of her and it makes me laugh. She's actually become a friend now, because we did panto for two years after she was on Strictly and we danced together on the tour. We did forty-two shows dancing together on the tour and forty-two panto shows. We've sort of become a double act - and an unlikely one at that, which I think is quite good. She makes me laugh because she's just out there having fun and having a laugh with it. That's a great approach.

There's been a call for same-sex couples to be featured on the show. What's your opinion?

I think it's a good idea. I have no problem with it because there are same-sex competitions, and Strictly Come Dancing isn't entirely a dance competition. The winners aren't going to become world champions and do dance tours around the world, are they? I can't see any reason why it should be an issue on the show, although I can professionally. At that level it raises points about lifts and stuff like that, and certain things they do in the rule book. As for same-sex couples in Strictly, I say bring it on.

Post-Annie, what's next for Craig Revel Horrid, er, Horwood?

I go into panto in High Wycombe, where I'll be doing two shows a day, every day - except Saturdays because I'll be doing Strictly. Then, when Strictly finishes at Christmas, I continue in panto until the beginning of January. Then there's Strictly Come Dancing Live, which tours arenas across the country up until February.

Craig Revel Horwood will take the stage as Miss Hannigan 13-31 October at the **Birmingham Hippodrome**.

Birds of a Feather star **Lesley Joseph** will be playing Miss Hannigan at all Saturday performances: 17, 24, 31 October.



Information available at
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

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Galaxy is a youth group for young people aged 19 and under from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure.

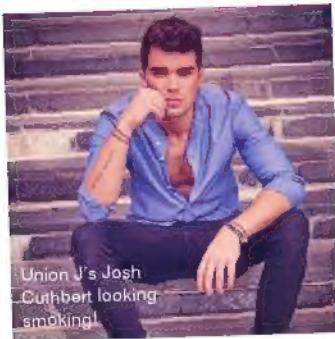


Gay Galaxy Youth Centre

THE VIRAL ROUND UP

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT ONLINE...

CELEB SNAPS! OUR FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM INSTAGRAM...



We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

TOM DALEY: Hot diver bench presses fellow sportsperson in display of extreme fitness...

As you may know, here at Zone magazine we're huge fans of Tom Daley - so imagine our reaction to this...

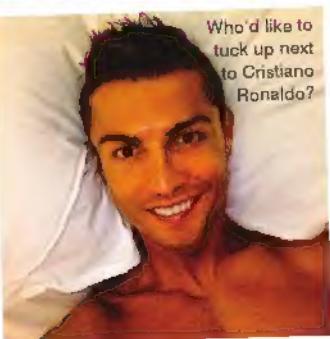
The 21-year-old British Olympic diver shared a video to his Instagram account of him bench pressing his diving colleague, Georgia Ward. Obviously, to maintain an amazing, toned body like Tom's, a lot of training is required. So we guess that to keep things interesting, instead of using boring (yet functional) weights, his mates are the next best thing. Check it out here: bit.ly/1Kq8lb



WATCH THIS! This video poking fun at the 'gay age gap', will give you a giggle!



We all know at least one gay couple who have a good gap in age between them - and we don't particularly care about it. But there surely must be some pitfalls to being a decade or so apart in age - and this video hilariously depicts just a few of them! Anyway, if you're keen to watch it, tap in this address: youtu.be/NmRhtStLDNs



Birmingham trans woman wins LGBT role model honour at National Diversity Awards

A trans woman from Birmingham has received the prestigious Positive LGBT Role Model honour at the annual National Diversity Awards, an event which pays tribute to grass-root communities nationwide.

Community 'heroes' from across the UK gathered in Liverpool last month to celebrate the achievements of those who have demonstrated their 'outstanding devotion to diversity, equality and inclusion'.

@TransGirlsCan campaigner **Megan Key** beat seven other nominees to win the Positive Role Model Award in the LGBT category.

Public sector worker Megan has been described as 'an exemplary role model within the National Probation Service'. Moving from Probation Officer to Equalities Manager in the Midlands division, she is responsible for strategic design and delivery of equality and inclusion for service users and employees.

Since choosing to live visibly as a transgender woman three years ago, Megan has been active in highlighting trans issues and promoting acceptance. The impact she's had on the lives of trans people and, as a result, members of other minority groups was described by judges as 'phenomenal'.

Dedicated to raising awareness at all levels and throughout the country, Megan volunteers as a trustee for Wolverhampton-based charity Gender Matters. She also works with schools in Birmingham to promote trans awareness and represents her trades union at the TUC LGBT conference.



Filmmaker, comedy writer and star of *My Transsexual Summer* Lewis Hancock described Megan as "an incredible role model who thoroughly deserves recognition".

The National Diversity Awards received a record 20,000 nominations and votes this year.

Wolves Pride heads indoors for 2015 due to funding cuts

As a result of funding cuts, the format of Wolves Pride has changed for 2015, with the festival moving Inside the city's new LGBT Centre.

Wolverhampton LGBT Network is holding the Pride Inside event on Saturday 3 October, from 1pm.

Martha Bishop, Chief Executive of LGBT Network Wolverhampton, said: "Our focus has been on securing larger premises and gaining funding to cover our overheads, to ensure core services are maintained. An outdoor Wolves Pride with a parade has infrastructure costs of almost £10,000 and we just don't have the funding to do that this year.

"Rather than no Pride at all, we decided to use our fabulous new building and put on a range of activities. It wouldn't be possible without the working partnership we have with Wolverhampton City Council, Wolverhampton Homes and Wolverhampton University, who are longstanding supporters of Pride in Wolverhampton. We're proud that this is still a community event rather than a commercial one, with local LGBT groups being the heart of Wolves Pride.

"The LGBT Network would like to thank all those involved in the previous years' events. As a small community group, we're proud to have brought Pride to Wolverhampton and organised it for the last three years, and we're now looking forward to our fourth event."

Wolves Pride 2015 features a Queer Question Time - hosted by LGBT and human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell - a cabaret stage, a live music stage, stalls, workshops and talks.

Birmingham 'queer arts' festival returns for a seventh year

Birmingham's Queer Arts Festival SHOUT returns in November for a seventh year, with event organisers confident the 2015 get-together will feature the best line-up yet.

Festival highlights include:

- **The Sissy's Progress** at mac Birmingham - part installation, part dance-theatre and part walking performance, join Nando Messias in his response to an act of homophobic hatred.
- **All The Nice Girls** at The Wellington Hotel, Southside - an entertaining glimpse at the lives of Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney through the eyes of male impersonator Ella Shields.
- The return of **Polar! Literary Salon** at mac Birmingham - after last year's sell-out event, book your tickets soon!
- An evening of female comedy with **MY Comedy** at The Penthouse, above The Loft



Lounge, Southside - alongside resident MC Maureen Younger will be Jo Enright (The Job's Lot), VG Lee (Polar!) and Bethany Black (Cucumber).

SHOUT runs from 12 to 22 November. The first section of the programme is now on sale

at www.shoutfestival.co.uk.

Look out for Midlands Zone's expansive feature on SHOUT Festival in the November issue of Midlands Zone, which hits the streets on Wednesday 28 October!

GET ALL THE LATEST NEWS AS IT HAPPENS AT MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK

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'State of the art' Wolverhampton nightclub to swing open its doors this month following re-location

One of Wolverhampton's busiest gay venues is set to move into new premises at the beginning of this month following a four month extensive refurbishment on premises previously occupied by a restaurant.

On Saturday 3rd October the venue, which has traded on School Street since its creation on 2010, is moving across the road to new premises.

Club bosses are say that the club will feature three times the existing capacity, VIP Booths and an Executive Lounge. The all-new Gorgeous will be a 'lavish, state of the art jewel in Wolverhampton's nightlife crown'.

Work began on the project back in June after a deal was agreed between club bosses and

site owners House of Fraser. Company General Manager **Shaun Keasey** said: "We've been working hard with colleagues to create a design that would turn such a large space into an amazing club. There's been a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, but eventually we agreed on a final layout which is the one customers will see when they enter the venue for the first time."

Operations Manager **Dale Murphy** said of the new venue: "In some ways the creation of the new club is the easy part, the challenge is to ensure that our customers have an amazing experience and are made to feel safe and free to enjoy a night off from everyday life!"

"Gorgeous is now a significant employer within Wolverhampton and has created three

full time and fifteen part time jobs. We are hoping to become part of The City Pledge which will help local people gain valuable work experience in their search for future opportunities."

Chart toppers **Stooshe** will be headlining the grand opening night with hits such as 'Waterfalls', 'Slip' and 'Black Heart' and support will come from Gorgeous DJs Paul Bryant, James Levert, Rob Cook, Chris E Murphy, Abeyance and Joe Campbell.

Open from 9pm until 6am, music will range from chart toppers, disco classics and dance anthems early doors. Whilst funky, filthy house and bassline monsters will continue through the night.



Gay digital radio station launched in Birmingham and surrounding areas

Gay digital radio station Gaydio, the UK's only full-time LGBT radio station, has been launched in Birmingham and the surrounding areas.

Commenting on the launch, Toby Whitehouse, Station Director, said: "Gaydio is already available online throughout the UK, and with almost half of the population now owning a DAB radio, we want to make the station more easily available across the country. Our existing DAB services for Lon-

don & Sussex, along with our FM licence in Manchester, means that around 20million people will be able to listen to the station on their DAB or FM radios."

Gaydio is the UK's only radio broadcaster for the LGBT community with a monthly audience of 850,000 listeners. The station plays the latest dance and pop music and has speech content specifically targeted at LGBT people.

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Midlands LGBTs one step closer to accessing PrEP via the NHS

Midlands-based members of the gay community who're most at risk of HIV transmission may soon be able to access PrEP via the NHS

HIV charity Terrence Higgins Trust has welcomed the peer-reviewed publication of the PROJD study, conducted in England, that proves PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) effectively prevents HIV

Publication of the data in a peer review journal means the ground-breaking daily pill that effectively protects people most at risk from HIV transmission could soon be an NHS reality.

Dr Michael Brady, Terrence Higgins Trust Medical Director, said: "The efficacy of this treatment as a HIV prevention tool is clear. The Lancet publication is an essential step towards ensuring access to PrEP for those who need it."

"We are campaigning for PrEP to be available on the NHS. For this to happen the treatment needs to be approved by NHS England, and the publication of the impressive PROJD results in a peer

review journal will support this process. Like HIV treatment, the history of HIV prevention has evolved over time. A 'combination approach' to HIV prevention is possible, and we need access to PrEP now."

Approximately 2 600 MSM (men who have sex with men) are infected with HIV each year, and this figure has not really changed over the last decade. Condoms are effective, but consistent condom use is not always a reality. The PROJD study clearly showed that PrEP was highly effective at preventing HIV infection among MSM in a real life setting. Those most at risk of HIV transmission need a range of options and choices to best meet their individual needs and circumstances. PrEP, with other prevention interventions such as condom use, behaviour change, regular HIV testing and treatment itself (the chance of HIV transmission if on ART HIV therapy is negligible) must be a part of this

Get ready for a Rainbow Ramble and see the sights of Walsall

The Midlands LGBT community have been invited on a 'Rainbow Ramble' through Walsall, to learn about some of its history and see some of its sights.

The walk, which takes place on Saturday 3 October takes participants on a trip through the town, stopping off at The New Art Gallery, the Leather Museum and the Arboretum. The trip will be led by Simon Backhouse, who's lived in the town for many years. Simon guarantees those taking part will learn something they didn't know before, including facts about Walsall's gay life.

Participants on the walk are being asked to meet outside The New Art Gallery from 10:30am, with a view to getting started at 11am.

The route is largely urban, easy, flat and paved but isn't suitable for dogs, due to the need to cross busy roads.

If you want to join the Rainbow Rambles for this tour of Walsall, simply turn up. They promise you'll meet some new friends.

The final Rainbow Ramble of 2015 takes place on Monday 28 December in central Birmingham.

Introducing Umbrella: A new sexual health service for Birmingham and Solihull

A new sexual health service is delivering improved support for LGBT people across Birmingham and Solihull.

Called Umbrella, it focuses on health promotion and preventative care for the community with free, confidential, non-judgmental support and treatment for people of all ages, genders and sexual orientations.

The service is being run by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB), working in partnership with Birmingham LGBT and a number of other partners. The unique network of local providers includes six NHS clinics, as well as almost 100 pharmacists, GPs and third sector partners.

The aim is to deliver better sexual health outcomes by providing people with the knowledge to avoid sexually transmitted infection and HIV, and to know how to seek help if they're experiencing sexual coercion or violence. Men who have sex with men (MSM), who suffer disproportionately from high rates of STIs and HIV, are a key group who require improved interventions.

Supported by UHB, Birmingham LGBT will provide an enhanced sexual wellbeing service to all sections of the LGBT community. This includes targeted interventions and clinics for trans people and lesbian/bisexual women.

There will be a phased roll-out of new services. Initially, the services previously offered by Healthy Gay Life will continue to operate but in a new venue: the Birmingham LGBT Centre on Holloway Circus.

There will be advice and support around sexual health and testing, free condoms and lube and a new drop-in, symptomatic clinic, with extended opening hours from midday to 8pm every Thursday. Self-sampling kits will also be available from the LGBT Centre during its regular opening hours.

Over the next 12 months, Umbrella and Birmingham LGBT will implement the following services:

- Seven days a week, 12 hours a day access to advice and support, plus self-sampling
- A monthly transsexual wellbeing clinic
- A monthly Well Woman clinic with a sexual health focus
- More outreach and testing in community venues
- A peer mentoring programme focused on HIV prevention
- A range of information and resources for the LGBT community on sexual health and healthy relationships

Umbrella will also aim to improve access to services generally that should result in increased testing, leading to increased chlamydia diagnosis rates in the 15-to-24 age group and reduced late HIV diagnoses.

The initiative is looking for prompt access to diagnosis and treatment, supplemented by partner notification, health promotion and individual behavioural interventions within clinics to address high-risk sexual behaviour and alcohol or substance misuse problems.

The target is fewer repeat STIs and less



transmission of HIV, STIs and blood-borne viruses (BBV) within the population.

In addition, a new Umbrella/LGBT Independent Sexual Violence Advocate will ensure the LGBT community is more aware of the issue and will increase identification of and support for victims of sexual exploitation. You can order free self-sampling kits - which will test for HIV, chlamydia, syphilis, Hep B and gonorrhoea. Locate your nearest clinic or book an appointment via the website: www.umbrellahealth.co.uk



Larna Gallier

Hate Crime Development Worker

Birmingham LGBT

Birmingham

Born: Worcester

Star sign: Libra

Age: 47

About Larna

Where did you grow up, Larna?

I grew up in the small riverside town of Bewdley in Worcestershire, surrounded by quaint old Georgian architecture, the Severn Valley Railway and lovely green countryside with the River Severn flowing through it.

Single or attached?

I'm single

What makes you happy?

There's so many things in my life that make me happy, where do I start? I'd have to say that being creative probably is one of the things that makes me happy. I love the process of having a starting point, developing an idea and then expanding on that idea until you've created something unique. Also, supporting other people gives me a great sense of satisfaction. To help and support another person is a wonderful thing, especially if they go away with a more positive outlook on life.

What makes you sad?

Intolerance and narrow-mindedness sadden me. That's probably why I'm interested in equality and diversity issues. It initially started out as just an interest in LGBT stuff, but my interest has broadened because of the people I work with and support. It saddens me when people don't get along. Usually it's because of something trivial.

What makes you angry?

It takes a lot to make me angry. I'm a pretty tolerant person. I'd put up with all sorts of stuff. I don't like being angry: it brings out an ugly side of me I don't really like.

If you could change any one thing about yourself, what would it be?

This is a difficult question to answer. I could say that I wish I'd been born a natural woman, instead of being born a transgendered woman. My life would certainly have been a lot easier. But growing up male and transgendered has taught me so much about myself and about other people. I truly believe I'm a better person for being given what I initially viewed as a curse when I was younger - but now I see it as a blessing. I've had experiences, opportunities and events happen in my life that I never would've had if I was cis-gendered. Also, being trans has taught me to be a more tolerant, compassionate and caring person.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

I once approached a man in a department store where he was trying on women's coats, with his wife in attendance. I facilitated a transgender group at the time, so thought I'd let the gentleman know that there was a trans group locally to him which he could come along and join if he wanted to dress in female clothing and express his gender identity in a safe and secure space. I went up, introduced myself and told him all about the trans group I helped facilitate, and said that if he wanted to come along he'd be made most welcome. There was a long silence and a look of bewilderment, whereupon he replied, "Oh I'm not trans - my mother-in-law is the same size as me, and I'm just trying on the women's coats to see which one would fit her best. My wife wants to buy her mom a new one". My intention may have been a good one but I so misread the situation!

Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?

I think it's brilliant - and if I choose to marry someone of the same gender then I can now. Love is love.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were transgendered?

I first knew I was different when I was about six or seven, although I didn't know what being transgendered was back then. We didn't have computers or internet phones to look up information on 'identity'. I thought I was the only person in the world like me at the time.

When did you come out?

I came out when I was in my early 30s. I was married at the time with a daughter, I owned my own home, had a great job, was reasonably well off - but despite all this I was so lonely and unhappy with myself. The feelings I had about myself just consumed my every thought. I didn't know at the time that I was suffering with depression and gender dysphoria. Eventually I sought help from my GP - and so began my adventure.

What was school like for you as a transgendered teenager?

I sort of enjoyed school, in a strange way. I've always liked learning, discovering new things and finding out new stuff. I buried my feelings about being transgendered so deep down that you'd have needed one of those deep-salvage submarines to find them. Even when I was young, I understood at the time that being trans wasn't accepted. It was bad enough being picked on and bullied because I was tall, but being

trans and tall, the other kids would've had a field day.

Who was the first person you told you were trans, and what was their reaction?

The first person I told was a friend at work. He struggled with anxiety, and I used to talk to him about it, hoping it would help him. We became good friends. I knew he was quite an open-minded sort of guy. He'd worked in the film and theatre industry, and although he wasn't gay himself, many of the people he'd worked with had been. He accepted people no matter who they were. One day I just came out with it and hoped he'd keep what I'd told him to himself, which he did thankfully.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality or gender identity?

Be yourself, live your life and not other people's version of you. Love yourself, like yourself, and never let anyone tell you that you're worthless or wrong. You may have bad days, helpless days and days of 'why me?', but all things are equal and you'll also have days when life is nothing but wonderful!

Your Career

What do you do for a living?

I work for Birmingham LGBT at the moment as a Hate Crime Development Worker, working on a project funded by the Equality & Human Rights Commission. Birmingham LGBT is one of 31 other organisations from around the country helping to raise awareness of LGBT Hate Crime as part of a national project and campaign. As part of the project, training has been developed to help improve the understanding of various agencies in supporting victims of Trans Hate Crime. I also facilitate the Trans Central Group at the Birmingham LGBT Centre. The group just celebrated its second year.

When you were younger, what did you want to be?

I've always had a great interest in illustration and graphic design - and although I haven't had the success I'd hoped for, I've had some opportunities to share my talents.

What was your first job after leaving school?

I worked for a printing company as a graphic designer, designing letterheads, logos and small pieces of artwork. Everything was done by hand, I didn't have computers to help me with the design process, like you do today. Photoshop and other such programs hadn't been invented, everything was hand rendered.

We've all got a dream job. What's yours?

I really enjoy working with people so a job as a support worker, facilitator or as a lecturer or teacher is my kind of dream job. I also wouldn't mind being a professional illustrator and artist.

Trans Scene

What's your fondest memory of the Midlands gay and trans scene?

Being able to be free to express my identity and individuality, sharing in some truly wonderful moments with my friends, and helping support and inspire other people along the way.

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay and trans scene?

I've been part of this lovely community for nearly 15 years!

What do you enjoy most about the Midlands gay and trans scene?

I don't tend to go out so much nowadays, but I always used to love the vibrancy and diversity of the people I met. It made me feel I was part of something very special. I've had some very enjoyable times with friends at various clubs and events.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

I love them all! I can't choose just one. They're all very special people.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

Du Dan Williams. I've spent many a happy hour on the dancefloor lost in the hedonism of the music he played and the wonderful atmosphere around me.

What have you noticed about the way the gay and trans scene's changed over the years?

I was more into the trans scene. Often meetings were held in gay venues. I think initially the trans community was very much about bars and clubs - safe spaces where they could express their identity without fear of prejudice. But, like the gay and let's not forget the bi-community, people have grown older and their tastes change. I've noticed the whole LGBT community engaged in a much wider and broader scene from holidays and sports activities to music and the arts, and so on. Although there will always be a special place for cheesy pop, people have moved on.

How would you change the Midlands gay and trans scene?

I've not been around the gay scene for a little while, and I was only really into the pubs and clubs. I think society has become a lot more integrated, and this has had an impact on the mainstream scene itself. I've noticed bars and clubs have become more accessible to a wider audience.

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

I'm partial to a popcorn moment at the cinema now and again, and I love eating out with friends and family.

What do you do to relax?

I love being creative. I trained to be an illustrator and artist, so I love to lose myself in being creative. I've also done a little story writing and hope to marry the two together at some point.

What do you enjoy on telly?

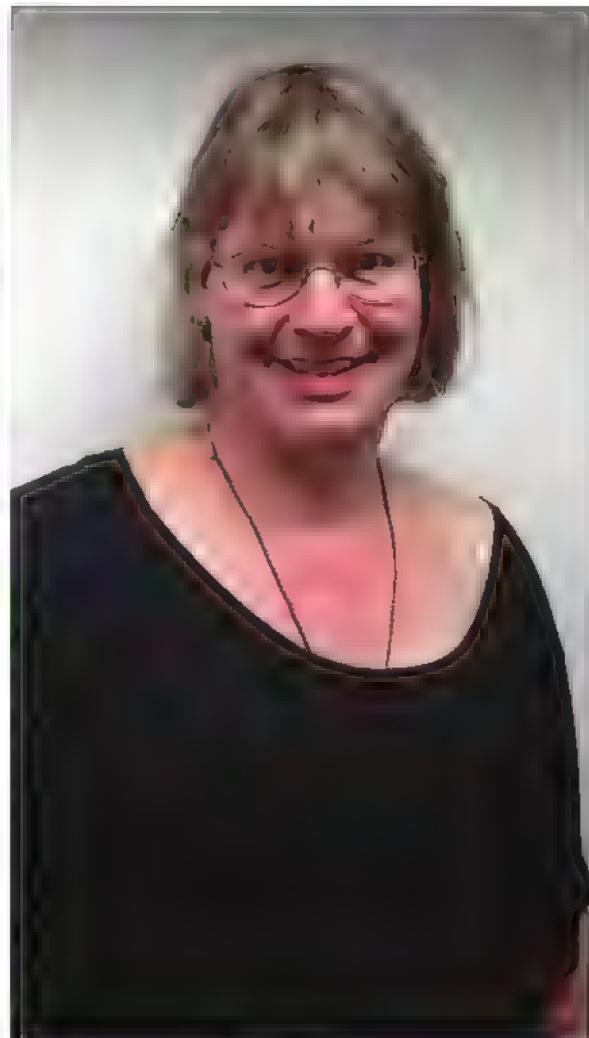
The Big Bang Theory. I love Sheldon. I also like anything on history, art and culture.

What was the last album you bought?

Lindsey Sterling. She's a cross between hip-hop and classic violin.

What website do you spend the most time on?

If I'm truthful, Facebook.

**What type of holiday do you prefer?**

I like moolah holidays, to explore and wander around your surroundings. I don't do lying on a beach, I look like the flotsam and jetsam brought in by the tide.

What's your favourite food?

I love all food. It's hard to choose but I do love any kind of seafood.

And how about your favourite drink?

A Dark and Stormy Dark rum with ice and good, strong ginger beer.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Bradley Cooper

What's your favourite book?

I have a few. Sharon Griffiths' The Accidental, Time Traveler, James McGee's Resurrectionist and James Herbert's The Magic Cottage

Half empty or half full?

Half full and get a bigger jug!

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Madonna, if I have to choose between the two but I'm more of a Kylie sort of person, to tell the truth.

If you could take a selfie with one person, dead or alive, who would it be?

The American artist Norman Rockwell, I grew up inspired by much of his work as an artist.

GET YOUR KNIT ON!

It's time to start wrapping up warm for autumn!



01 Burgundy Roll Neck Jumper

Look sharp this autumn with this popular burgundy roll neck jumper. The fine gauge knit will certainly help to keep you warm without sacrificing style and quality.

£22.00

www.burton.co.uk

02 Stripey Knitted Jumper

Through a bit of colour into your wardrobe with this fine-knit jumper. Made of a cotton blend with some wool, this colourful rib-knitted piece will certainly turn heads when out and about.

£29.99

www.hm.com

03 Wool-blend Cable-knit Jumper

There's plenty of knit styles out there, but one of the staple classics is this cable-knit design. Made from a soft wool blend, this beige jumper will look great paired with a pair of black skinny jeans.

£29.99

www.hm.com

04 Navy Shoulder Patch Waffle Knit Jumper

If you're looking for a jumper that's a bit more chunky than the rest, this waffle-knit piece will suit you down to the ground. Featuring shoulder patches and simple long sleeves.

£19.99

www.newlook.com

05 Grey Raglan Textured Crew Neck Jumper

If you're looking for a solid coloured jumper, this grey raglan mid-gauge knitted jumper hits the mark.

£30.00

www.burton.co.uk

06 Waffle-knit Jumper

Here's another waffle-knit jumper - but this time, a bit simpler. If green isn't your colour, then don't worry as H&M offer the same style in five different colours. Made with a cotton blend

£24.99

www.hm.com



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01 Sphero BB-8
One for all the Star Wars fans out there, the BB-8 will be more than a Droid. It'll be your companion too! App enabled, you can guide BB-8 using your smartphone, tablet or voice, and create and view holographic videos too.

£129.99
www.firebox.com

02 Apple TV
The all-new Apple TV was announced last month and lets you watch movies, TV shows on Netflix, listen to music and more! The biggest addition to the new Apple TV is the ability to play games! We're going to be added to

Coming Soon
www.apple.com/uk

03 Apple iPhone 6s & 6s Plus
Without doubt one of the most popular smartphones in the world, the new iPhone 6s & 6s Plus is the same phone we all know and love, but with so many new features. An all-new camera, 3D Touch and OS 9!

From £539.00
www.apple.com/uk

04 Roomba 980
Cleaning your house just got a hell of a lot easier! The new Roomba 980 vacuum cleaning robot is now Wi-Fi connected, allowing users to remotely schedule cleaning sessions on the go. If you're lazy, this is for you!

Coming Soon
www.irobot.co.uk

05 iPad Pro
Just when you thought that the iPad couldn't get any bigger, it did. Featuring a 12.9-inch Retina display and nearly double the performance of the iPad Air 2, this beast is great for professional use... or if you just want a big screen!

Coming November
www.apple.com/uk

06 Apple Pencil
To go with your shiny new iPad Pro, pick up the Apple Pencil. A great tool for artists, creating work on the iPad Pro will be so much easier with this little gadget, allowing you to draw lines of any weight, just by using pressure.

Coming November
www.apple.com/uk

CAM4

5 Reasons
you should
visit CAM4
Today

20 Thousand+
Amateur Guys
Live on Cam

200 HOT
New
Performers
Join Each
Day

WINNERS

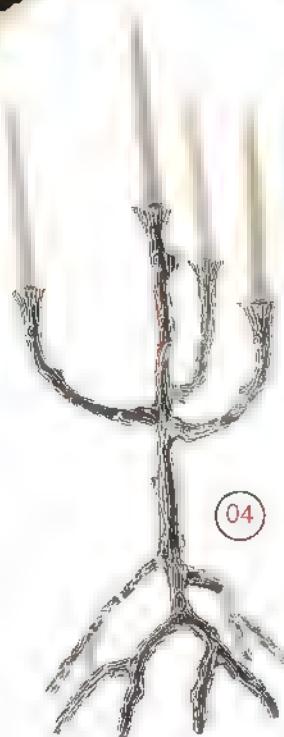
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THE WORLD'S LARGEST ADULT WEBCAM SITE



Men's Grooming Essentials

A lot of men have a strict grooming routine to get us through the day. Whether you're heading to work, for a night out on the gay scene or out on a date, you'll always be wanting to look your best. So here's a number of products that we've hand selected to make you look and feel great every day.



01 Lab Series MAX LS Age-less Power V Lifting Cream
We're all slowly growing old, so why not beat the wrinkles with this lifting cream? It helps to tighten the skin and reduces sagging, helping the skin to look younger.

£54.00
boots.com

02 Apothecary87 Original Beard Oil
If you've got a beard, then be sure to grab a bottle of beard oil. Using it will not only condition dry hair and skin, but it'll help your beard to grow faster, stronger and thicker!

£34.00
apothecary87.co.uk

03 Oral-B Pro 6000 Smart Series Electric Toothbrush
We all brush our teeth, but do you do it with top tech? This electric toothbrush connects via Bluetooth to your smartphone to help you guide your brushing.

£110
amazon.co.uk

04 Clinique Happy for Men Body and Hair Wash
This body wash leaves your skin feeling smooth, refreshed and smelling great.

£22.00
boots.com

05 Philips BG2036 Bodygroom
If you like to shave below the neck, then this is the

body groomer for you! Shave and trim with precision, whilst protecting your skin.

£55.00
amazon.co.uk

06 ManCave Conditioning Style Cream
The ManCave Conditioning Style Cream is a lightly fragranced premium multi-function

hair styling pomade and leave-in conditioner.

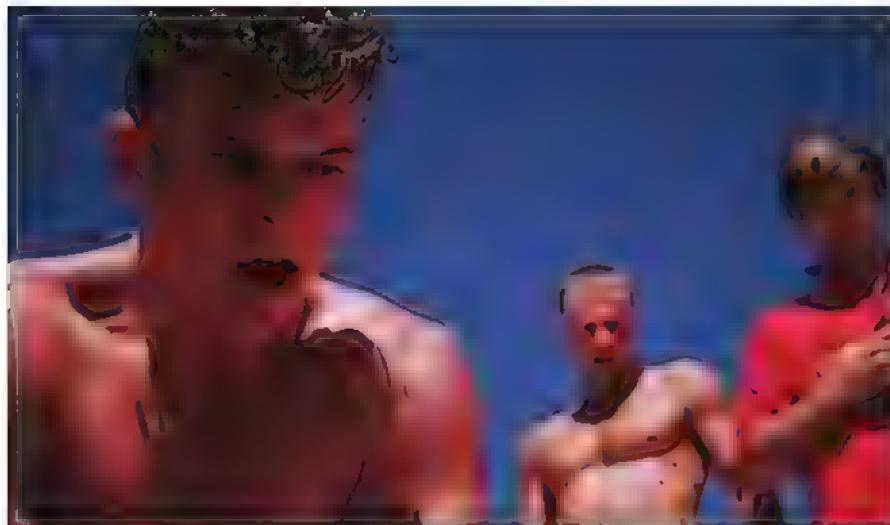
£8.50
boots.com

07 Brisk Beard Shampoo
If you've got a grizzly beard, then this shampoo is for you! It'll leave it clean, soft and manageable.

£4.89
boots.com

That's Entertainment!

This month's hot new DVD, music and book releases...

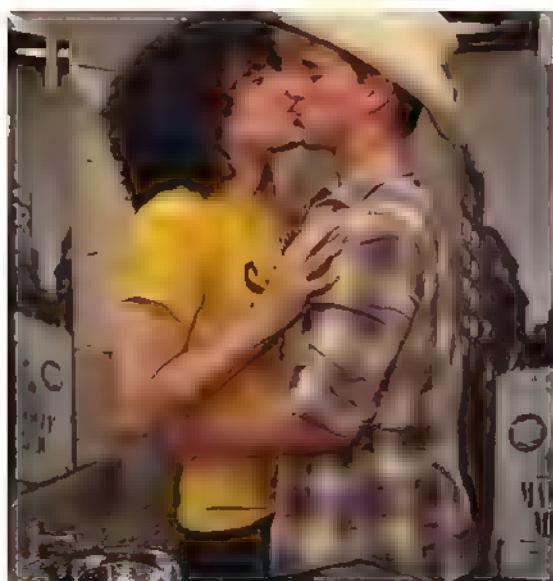


DVD DROWN (18)

Len is a lifesaving champ on, a legend in his lifetime. But when the younger, faster and fitter Phil arrives at the club and saves a young boy on his first day, it seems Len is no longer on top of his game.

His confused feelings for Phil cause him to react violently. When Phil wins the annual Sydney Lifesaving competition - a competition Len has won five times previously - Len finally comes face to face with a fundamental question: Will he accept the truth about his identity or will he ultimately drown?

The movie is available on DVD and on-demand from Monday 12 October.



DVD JESS & JAMES (18)

Jess is a bohemian youth with secrets to hide from his parents. James, meanwhile, feels trapped living with his irritable mother. After meeting for a sexual encounter, the two young men set off on a spontaneous road trip across rural Argentina to reunite with Jess's estranged brother. On their journey, they engage in a ménage à trois

affair that brings them closer. Jess & James is a sexually charged road-trip movie, a love story and a coming-of-age tale, set against the mythical landscape of the Argentinian Pampas.

Jess & James is available on DVD from Monday 12 October.

BOOK BINGE

by Tyler Oakley

Gay pop-culture tastemaker Tyler Oakley has amassed more than 10 million social media followers through his humorous, no-holds-barred YouTube videos, high-profile interviews and social rights advocacy. After uploading his first video eight years ago, Oakley took the Internet by storm. With successes ranging from interviews with First Lady Michelle Obama and boy band One Direction to a worldwide, multi-city live tour and a record-breaking social media following, Oakley is a YouTube icon. In his first book, *Binge*, Tyer shares a shocking number of mishaps and shenanigans. From a rage blackout in a cheesecake factory and a fash on stand-off with America's secret service in the White House, through to projectile vomiting while bartering with a grandmother, *Binge* will really open your eyes to Tyler's crazy life.



TYLER OAKLEY

Binge by Tyler Oakley is available to buy on Tuesday 20 October.



MUSIC SOUNDS GOOD FEELS GOOD

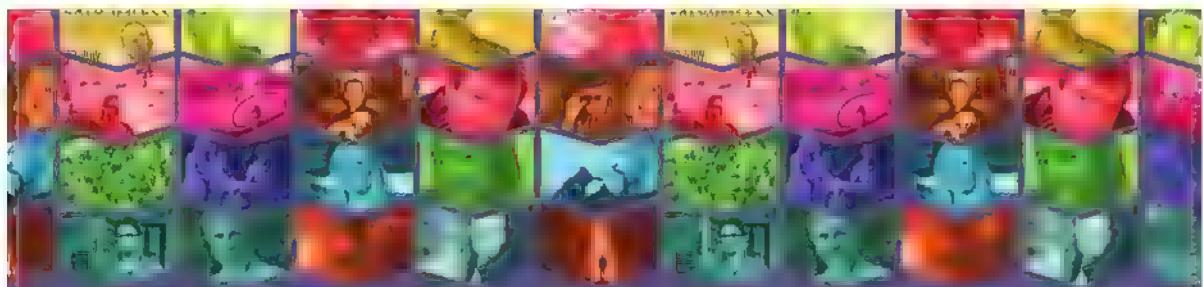
by 5 Seconds of Summer

The second album from the Australian superstars, featuring Top 20 hit 'She's Kinda Hot'.

Sounds Good Feels Good is available to buy from Friday 23 October.

WORLD CLASS THEATRE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

A collage of six Broadway-style posters for musicals. From left to right: 1. 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert' featuring a woman in a large, multi-colored feathered hat. 2. 'Hairspray' featuring a man in a sequined jacket and a woman in a red dress. 3. 'Rocky Horror Show' featuring a woman in a sequined top and a man in a sequined jacket. 4. 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' featuring a woman with blonde hair. 5. 'Sister Act' featuring a woman in a sequined outfit. 6. A poster for 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' featuring a girl in a blue dress.



BIRMINGHAM
LITERATURE
FESTIVAL

8-17 OCTOBER 2015

卷之三十一

Allan Ahlberg

Rita Dove, former US Poet Laureate

Revd Richard Coles

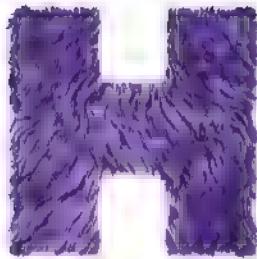
Meera Syal in conversation with Tonika Gupta

Tracey Thorn & Ben Watt (*Everything But The Girl*)

Stuart Mcconie

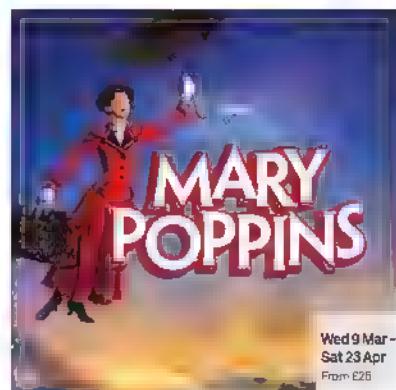
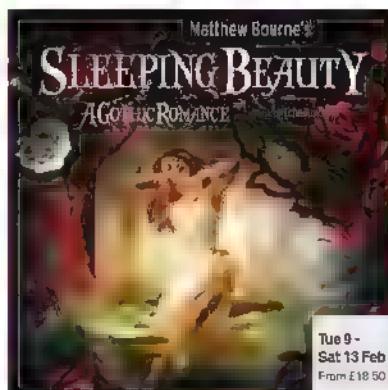
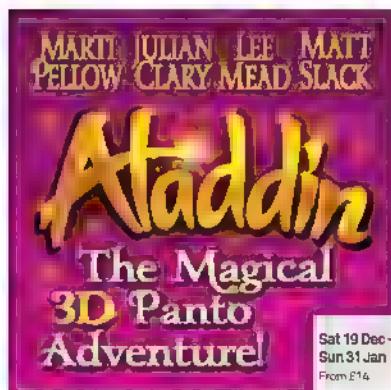
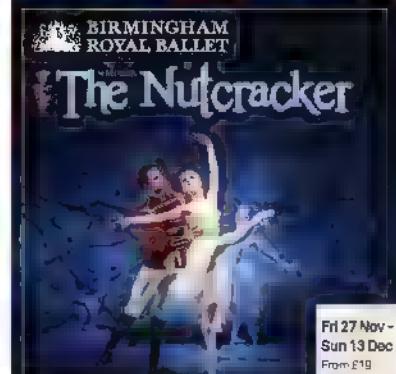
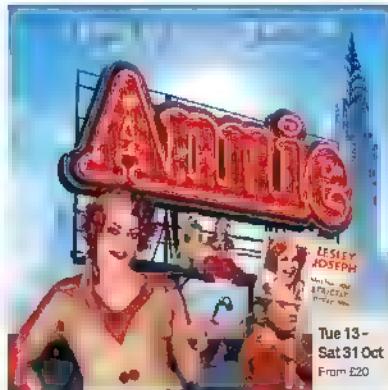
To book visit www.visitengland.com that site is established to keep up to date with all the latest news or call 0845 222 0000.





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ZONE

hotlist

THIS MONTH'S HOT EVENTS & THINGS TO SEE AND DO

1

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Fri 9 Oct; Rock City, Nottingham, Sun 11 Oct

Years & Years - made up by openly gay Oliy, Emre and Mikey - have had a pretty amazing 2015. Their debut album *Communion*, reached the album chart top spot and they enjoyed huge success with singles such as *King* and *Shine*. Off the back of all this, the boys are going out on their biggest tour yet, visiting the Midlands this very month



2

FIERCE FESTIVAL

Venues across Birmingham City Centre, Wed 7 - Sun 11 Oct

The Birmingham-based international festival of cross art form performance returns - and boy, is it looking great! Embracing theatre, dance, music, installations, activism and parties, Fierce really is offering something for everyone. Our highlight is Simone Augherlony's *Supernatural*. A hotly anticipated dance piece, the work presents a thought-provoking exploration of the subject of gender roles.

Find out more about Fierce Festival at www.wearfierce.org



3

JOE LYCETT

**The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 7 Oct
Sokhna Arts Complex, Warwickshire, Sat 10 Oct**

Gay comedian Joe Lycett may have been described as 'the new Alan Carr', but his act blends a little of Larry Grayson and a dash of Julian Clary with a large helping of Kenneth Williams, but he's nonetheless very much his own man. Joe comes from the well-established British tradition of charismatic camp comedians presenting a series of risqué (not that) gags, but he's also showcased his impressive capacity for mischief-making.



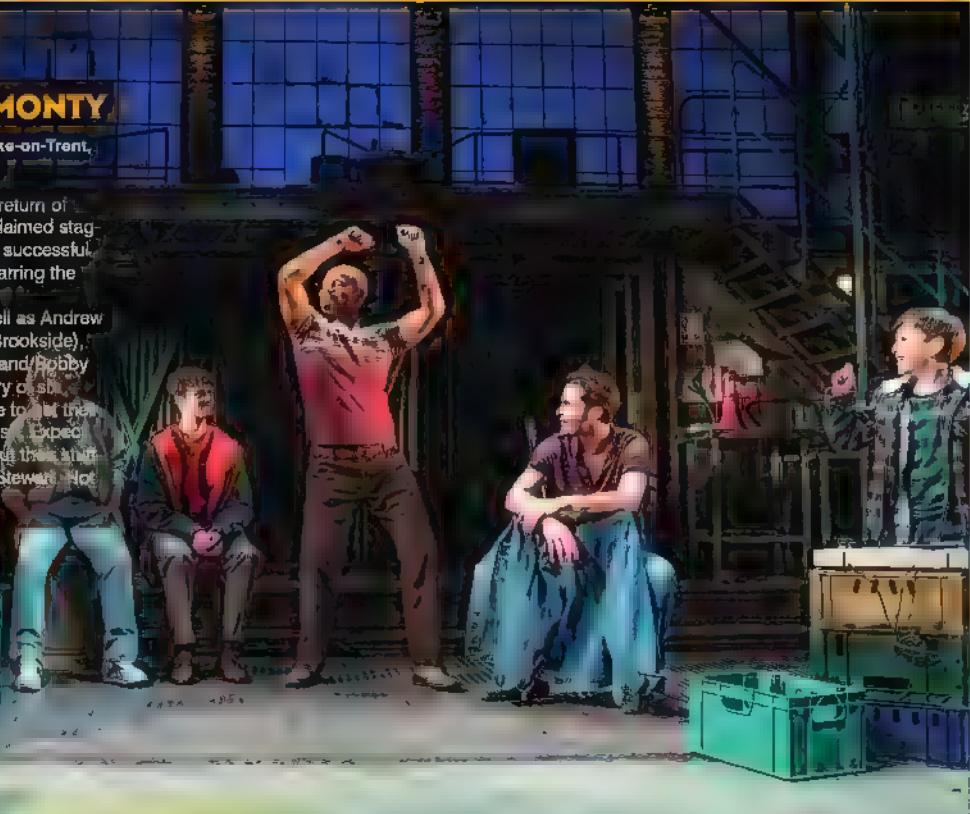
hotlist

4

THE FULL MONTY

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Mon 26 - Sat 31 Sep

This month sees the return of Simon Beaufoy's acclaimed staging of one of the most successful British screen comedies of all time. Starring the drop-dead gorgeous Gary Lucy (EastEnders/Footballers/Wives) as well as Andrew Dunne (Dinnerladies), Nick Emrick (Brookside), Rupert Hill (Family Affairs), Martin Hill and Robbie Schofield, *The Full Monty* tells the story of six unemployed steel workers who decide to strip off to earn some much-needed cash. Expect plenty of exposed flesh and the like, set to the songs of Doctor Summer, Rod Stewart, Hot Chocolate and Tom Jones.

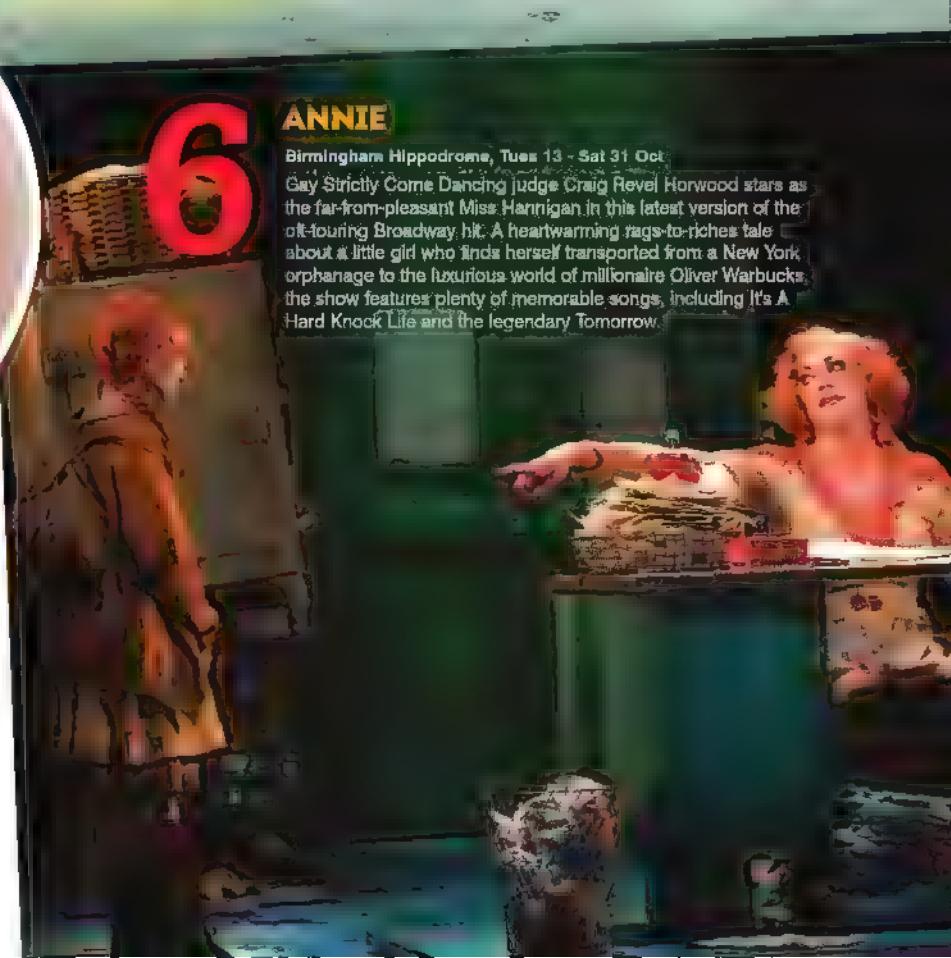


5

CERI DUPREE EYECONS

Grand Theatre, Weyverhampton
Tues 13 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
Fri 23 Oct

Fame impersonator Cen Dupree was once described as a cross between Joe Longthorne and Lily Savage... only with better legs! Well known to Mid ards the ate-goers following recent pantomime stints Cen returns with a brand new show. Expect a sensational evening of visual comedy, impressions, music and thousands of pounds-worth of astounding, jaw-dropping costumes!



6

ANNIE

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 13 - Sat 31 Oct

Gay Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood stars as the off-pleasant Miss Hannigan in this latest version of the oft-touring Broadway hit. A heartwarming rags-to-riches tale about a little girl who finds herself transported from a New York orphanage to the luxurious world of millionaire Oliver Warbucks, the show features plenty of memorable songs, including It's A Hard Knock Life and the legendary Tomorrow.

**7**

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct

Get your drag out of your wardrobe, put your makeup on and jump into those heels! Priscilla is back in the Midlands this month - and boy, do we love it! Jason Donovan returns in the role of Tick - the part he played when the show originally opened in the West End.

Based on the cult movie all gays love, Priscilla the stage show has wowed both West End and Broadway audiences, picking up a coveted Olivier Award and an equally prestigious Tony Award along the accolade-strewn way.

At its heartland is an uplifting story of the friendship shared between three pals, who hop aboard a battered old bus and head off in search of love and romance. If you love camp you'll love this!



RUBY WAX

The REP, Birmingham, Sun 25 Oct; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 29 Oct

In a career that's never really seemed to slow down, Ruby Wax has been not only a stand-up comedian but also among other roles: a chat show host, an actress and a script editor. She's nowadays forging a career for herself away from the limelight too, having studied Psychotherapy and gained a Master's degree in Mindfulness-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy from Oxford University. Reflecting her new-found knowledge this touring show explores how people's own thinking can sometimes sabotage their sanity.

10**9**

RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 16 - Sun 18 Oct

The annual Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary with a fantastic line-up of movies for the entire LGBT community to enjoy. Across the three-day festival you'll be able to watch feature films and numerous shorts. In fact the whole festival, which Midlands Zone is sponsoring, has an entire feature dedicated to it in this very issue, so check out what's on over on p26. We see you at the festival!



FAMILY PRIDE SCAREFEST

Barnswood Scout Camp, Macclesfield

Fri 23 - Sun 25 Oct

Family Pride is building on the success of its summer camping festival by offering all LGBT families and their friends a devilishly ghoulish Halloween spooktacular!

ScareFest is a weekend camping event held at Barnswood Scout Camp, offers a veritable smorgasbord of fiendish Halloween activities, culminating in a fancy dress Thriller-style disco with wacky Halloween games. For more information, visit www.familyprideuk.co.uk

11

SCEPTRE

CERT TBC

Daniel Craig returns (for the last time) as 007 and is sent on a mission to uncover a secret organisation (Spectre) that is really, really bad news. The theme song, Writing's On The Wall, will be sung by Sam Smith. And, of course, Dame Judi will be sorely missed. Released 26 October



HALLOWEEN GAY SCENE EVENTS

Various gay venues across the Midlands, Thurs 29 - Sun 1 Nov

The Midlands gay scene loves Halloween. It's a chance to don the fancy dress and have a ghoulishly good time at any number of spellbindingly splendid parties. Check the OUT Diary for full details!

10TH ANNIVERSARY FOR

A showcase of some of the best in

Following on from its successes in previous years, the Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival makes a welcome return this month, bigger and better than ever and celebrating its tenth anniversary!

Running from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 Octo-

ber, the main festival takes place at Shrewsbury's Old Market Hall cinema and showcases eight LGBT movies. The event also features a whole host of shorts - showing on Saturday the 17th, with even more at The Hive on Sunday the 18th. In addition to

all these great movies, there are Q&As, discussions and visits from some of the films' directors.

To book tickets, visit:

www.rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk or
www.oldmarkethall.co.uk



Friday 16th October, 8pm **The Way He Looks**

Blind teenager Leonardo's searching for independence. The arrival of a new student in school changes his life. Leonardo has to deal with the jealousy of his friend, Giovanna, while figuring out the feelings he's having towards new pal Gabriele. A tender and moving film

Cert 12 Director: Daniel Ribeiro, USA, 2014



Mom's Apple Pie

Saturday 17th October, 1pm

...The Heart of the Lesbian Mother's Custody Movement.

Heroic resistance, pain and heartbreak of forgotten 1970s lesbian custody battles

Directors: Jody Laine, Shan Ottey, Shad Reinstein, USA, 2006

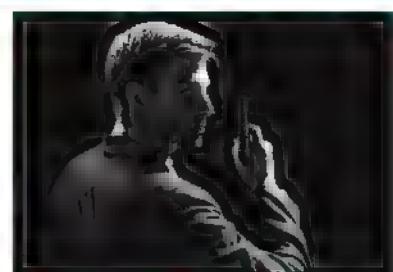


Raising Hell

Saturday 17th October, 1pm

A documentary film that explores the experiences of children of gay and lesbian parents

Directors: Ed Webb-Ingall, UK, 2010



Jayson Bend

Saturday 17th October, 4.30pm

LGBT James Bond-style action comedy Royal Intelligence is that a satellite will turn the owner of the largest global hair salon chain into one of the most powerful men in the world! Plus Q&A with the director
Cert TBC Director: Matt Carter, UK, 2014

RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

LGBT cinema from across the world

The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury
Friday 17 October - Sunday 18th October



Appropriate Behaviour

Saturday 17th October, 8pm

Shirin strives to become an ideal Persian daughter, a politically correct bisexual and a hip young woman from Brooklyn. A razor-sharp rom-com, funny, risqué and often excruciatingly honest.

Cert 15 Director: Desirée Akhavan, USA, 2015



Victim

Sunday 18th October, 1.30pm

Starring Dirk Bogarde and Sylvia Syms. A high-flying barrister is cut down when he confronts the blackmail suffered by gay men in 1960s Britain. Plus Q&A with Peter Scott Presland

Cert 12 Director: Basil Dearden, UK, 1961



For 80 Days

Saturday 17th October, 4.30pm

Where's the thin line that separates friendship from desire? After more than 50 years without seeing each other, two 70-year-old women from the Basque Country dare to cross that line! Includes subtitles

Cert TBC Director: Jon Garaño, Jose Mari Goenaga, Spain, 2010



Boy Meets Girl

Sunday 18th October, 6.30pm

This groundbreaking coming-of-age romantic comedy explores how falling in love transcends gender, and how important it is to live a courageous life without fear standing in the way of your dreams

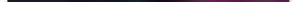
Cert TBC Director: Eric Schaeffer, USA, 2014

For short film listings visit www.rainbowfilmfestival.co.uk

LGBT community come together for **Walsall Pride**

Last month's Walsall Pride attracted many people from the town's LGBT community and beyond.

With a main stage providing entertainment throughout the day and a cabaret stage and nighttime entertainment also playing their part, there really was something for everyone. Organisers hailed the event a huge success, and planning has already begun for 2016's event.



Pictures by Fox & Squirrel



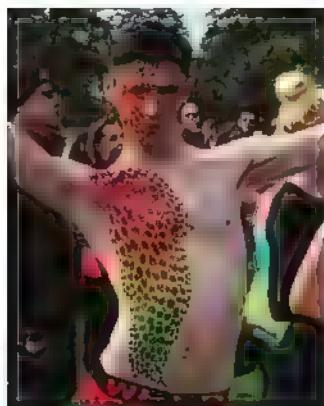
Thousands come out to celebrate at **Leicester Pride**

Thousands of people from across the city of Leicester made their way to Victoria Park to celebrate LGBT life at the annual Pride festival.

The one-day event began with a vibrant walking parade that snaked its way through the city centre to the park. A day of top entertainment followed, with X Factor winner Sam Bailey headlining the festival.



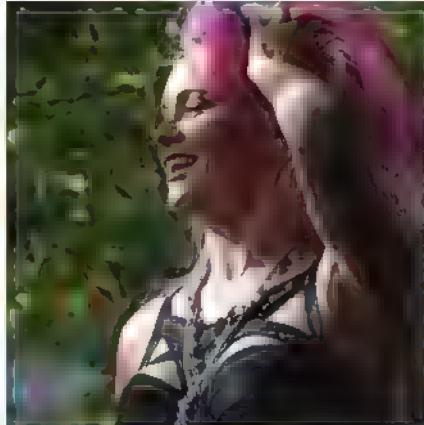
Pictures by Karley Foy; Trevor Sewell, Bradley Burdett & Chris Brookes of Gay Pride Pics



Sunshine and rainbows come out for **Out Derby**

Derby was awash with rainbows and fabulousness last month as the city came together to show just how proud it is!

The city's LGBT community enjoyed a top day of great fun and entertainment kicking off the event with a march through the streets. X Factor star Kitty Bruckner headlined proceedings. It's safe to say the day was a huge success. Well done to all involved!



Pictures by Fox & Squirrel

BIRMINGHAM COMEDY Festival

2-11 Oct
2015

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IAN LEE • **CASUAL VIOLENCE**
BREAKING TALENT AWARD 2015
(FREE) HALF-DAYER & much more

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Wolves Pride heads inside for 2015 LGBT festival

Sunday 3 October

Network House,
School Street,
Wolverhampton

www.lgbtwolverhampton.org.uk

Wolverhampton Pride is being taken indoors this year.

Taking place at Network House on School Street in Wolverhampton, Wolves 'Pride Inside' will offer a wide range of entertainment, from cabaret to live music, Q&As and community stalls.

The event will also feature a Queer Quest on Time, hosted by LGBT and Human Rights campaigner Peter Tatchell, and live music from the likes of Pride regulars Eek and Alex Vann.

And for all of you cabaret fans out there, there's a real treat in store. Performing on the day are Miss Penny, Twogy, Champagne Shirley, Baga Chipz, Pam Catz, the Divine Miss M, and, of course, the one and only Whore of Hampstead Heath herself, Sandra!

All this and more for just £2 on the day!

Miss Penny



Sandra



Champagne Shirley



Twiggy



The Divine Miss M



Baga Chipz



Network House,
School Street





LGBT
NETWORK
serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities



WOLVERHAMPTON PRIDE INSIDE 2015

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 1PM

NETWORK HOUSE, SCHOOL STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON WV1 1EJ

**PETER TATCHELL HOSTING QUEER QUESTION TIME, LGBT GROUPS,
TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE AREA, HEALTH AND WELLBEING AREA,
FAMILIES AREA, OVER 50'S AREA, CABARET STAGE, LIVE MUSIC
STAGE, BARS, TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND MORE...**



RUN BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

WWW.LGBTWOLVERHAMPTON.ORG.UK // 01902 425092

WIN! A pair of tickets to see Pam Ann!

The world's favourite international air hostess, Pam Ann, is next month flying in from Australia with a brand new show.

Pam Ann's caustic wit knows no boundaries, so fasten your seat belts and prepare for take off - she's Queen of the Sky and it's guaranteed to be a turbulent flight!

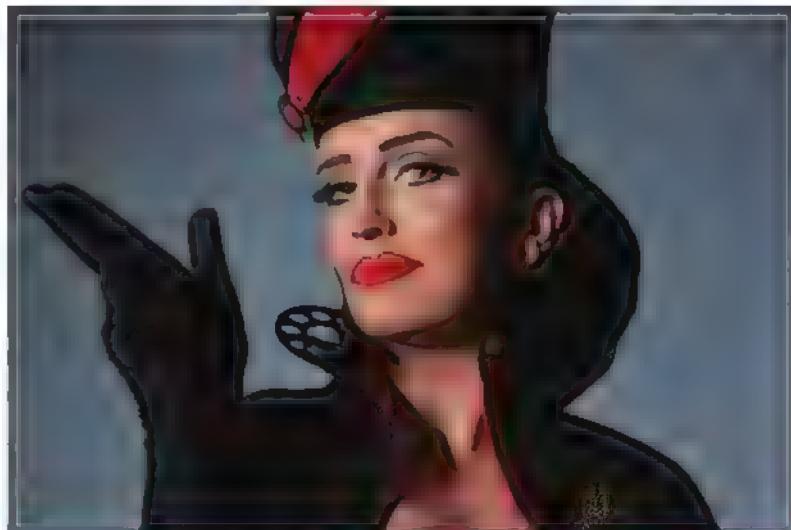
Hilarious, often shocking and totally politically incorrect, Pam Ann keeps things lively and nailbitingly unpredictable as she takes off her pristine white gloves and delivers an unremitting barrage of shoot-from-the-hip observations.

Pam Ann: Queen of the Sky shows at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Thursday 19 November at 8pm.

To enter our competition, visit www.midlandszone.co.uk and answer this question:

What country is Pam Ann from?

- A) Australia
- B) Thailand
- C) The USA



To enter, simply visit www.midlandszone.co.uk before Friday 30th October

SHROPSHIRE RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Spring Out
OMH

16 - 18 OCTOBER 2015



Home-Grown - Sat Morn Shorts*

A selection of short films featuring everything from arm wrestling to a chance encounter on a park bench. A heart warming and occasionally heart wrenching selection of high quality short films produced here in the UK. Several directors will be present to talk about their films
Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury. 10-15 am

Around The World - Sun Morn Shorts*

A visual journey around the world through some fantastic stages and documentaries.
Don't forget your passport and your tickets!
The Hive, 5 Belmont Street, Shrewsbury. 11:00 am

7.30pm: Opening Ceremony,
Shrewsbury Town Mayor,
Cllr Miles Kenny

Friday 16th October 8.00pm

THE WAY HE LOOKS

Saturday 17th October 1.00pm

Double Drowning

followed by discussion

MOM'S APPLE PIE.
THE HEART OF THE
LESBIAN MOTHER S
CUSTODY MOVEMENT

RAISING HELL

Saturday 17th October 4.30pm

SOMETHING REAL/DIRTY TALK

JAYSON BEND:

QUEEN & COUNTRY

Plus. Q&A with Matt Carter (Director)

Saturday 17th October 8.00pm

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Sunday 18th October, 1.30pm

VICTIM

Plus. Q&A with Peter Scott-Presland

Sunday 18th October, 4.30pm

FOR 80 DAYS

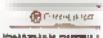
Sunday 18th October, 6.30pm

BOY MEETS GIRL

£5/£4 (CONCS) AVAILABLE THROUGH EVENTBRITE*



GREG AND MARIA D'AGUAR
JACKIE STENGELHOFEN



pride

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUE

OUT

OCTOBER 2015



THERE'S A
**GHOUPLY
GAY SCENE
COMING TO THE MIDLANDS**

HALLOWEEN EVENTS GUIDE INSIDE!

ALASKA HEADS TO BRUM

Get ready Drag Race fans, because the one and only Alaska is coming to town!

STOOSHE IN WOLVES

The girl group help launch an all-new Gorgeous Club in Wolverhampton

NEW MEN'S FETISH NIGHT!

There's a brand new men's fetish night heading to Birmingham this month!

TIME FOR A CHANGE OF SCENE... ;)

THE GORGEOUS GRAND OPENING
SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2015

700 CAPACITY | BARS | EXECUTIVE | DUNGE | VIP BOOTHES

STUNNING SOUND & LIGHTING



stoooshne.

THREE AMAZING VENUES... ONE GREAT CITY!
WOLVERHAMPTON'S...



FOR MORE INFO VISIT
WWW.GORGEOUSCLUB.CO.UK

GORGEOUS CLUB | SCHOOL STREET | WOLVERHAMPTON | WV1 4LF | 01002 771122

Excitement builds for BIRMINGHAM FETISH MEN at popular venue, Eden Bar!



Guys who like their nights out to be 'on the wild side' should this month head to Eden bar for the venue's brand new monthly event, Birmingham Fetish Men.

Taking place on Sat 3 October, the night's strict dress code includes leather, rubber, sports wear and skin. Plus there's entertainment from La Vox - as you've never seen her before. Eden - B mm ingham EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

RuPaul's Drag Race star ALASKA heads to Brum

For all you RuPaul's Drag Race fans out there, Birmingham gay super-club The Nightingale is continuing its run of Queens from the

This month sees Alaska taking to the stage with a live PA and meet and greet (Saturday 24 Oct). These events have been amazing in the past, so make sure you don't miss this one. Advance tickets are now on sale at www.theticket-sellers.co.uk - so be sure to grab yours before it's too late. See you there



XXL brings all the boys to the yard for steamy monthly men-only club night

Men-only club night XXL returns to Birmingham this month - and it promises to be as good as ever!

Taking place on the third Friday of every month (Friday 16 October), the popular clubbing event sees men from across the Midlands come out to play and party!

The London club night's Midlands event

features XXL's resident DJ, Christian M playing the best hits and remixes to get the dancefloor packed

And be sure to check out the dark room upstairs while you're there! Have fun guys!

THE XXL - BIRMINGHAM



FRIDAY NIGHT CABARET every week at Birmingham bar



If you're out on a Friday night and looking for great cabaret to enjoy, look no further than Birmingham's Village Inn.

Kicking off the venue's October line-up is Lola Lasagne on Friday the 2nd. The following week sees the Drag With No Name dropping in, with Miss Jason appearing on Friday the 16th and Miss Thunderpussy on Friday the 23rd. And on pay weekend, Friday the 30th, it's Sandra who takes to the stage.

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

NEW-LOOK FRIDAYS for Birmingham's Missing Bar

In a bid to keep your weekends fresh, Missing Bar in Birmingham has introduced a new-look Friday night.

Join DJ Matt and Gavina for Hit Man & Her. Matt will be playing

all the hits from the decades while host Gavina will be giving away free shots throughout the night. There are great drinks offers too

THE MISSING BAR - BIRMINGHAM

STOOSHE head to Wolves for new nightclub launch

Popular girl group Stooshe are set to appear at the all-new and recently relocated Gorgeous Bar & Club in Wolverhampton.

The three-piece pop group and former Birmingham Pride headliners are set to perform at the venue on Saturday 3 October. The resident DJs you know and love will be there throughout the

night too.

The new venue, located just across the road from Gorgeous old School Street site, boasts an impressive 700 capacity, two bars, an executive lounge and VIP booths. We're excited to see what's in store for Wolverhampton's gay scene!

GORGEOUS - WOLVERHAMPTON



October

5 12 19 26

MONDAY

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am.

CHASING WITH BAGA CHIPZ

Every Monday night head down to the Village Inn for a night of fun cabaret with the incredible Baga Chipz. It's not to be missed!

THE VILLAGE INN

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MONDAY MADNESS Weekly drink offers with DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-Late. **BAR JESTER**

OUTSKIRTS

1st & 3rd Monday month **BAR JESTER**

POUNDED Come down from 6pm onward. Drinks £1. **SIDEWALK**

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party). **Mon 5 Oct** - Live cabaret with Vicki Jackson. Free admission before midnight and just £3 after. Great drinks offers all night long with drinks starting at just £1. **C21, SHREWSBURY**

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-5am. Student night. Everything is £2 (shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward. **GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON**

CHILL NIGHT with Karaoke. **THREE FURNACES, TELFORD**

GET THE PARTY STARTED Free admission with DJ Foxy Divine. Open 5pm-4am. **GOSSEY, STOKE ON TRENT**

STUDENT NIGHT Free admission with DJ Foxy Divine. Open 5pm-4am. **PINK, STOKE ON TRENT**

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO New Foresters, Nottingham

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am. **NIGHTINGALE CLUB**

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR with your host karaoke temptress Gavina. Party starts at 9pm till late. **THE BOSTON, BIRMINGHAM**

OPEN YOUR SNATCH Songs Games & Prizes with Miss Penny. **THE VILLAGE INN**



TUNE UP TUESDAY

with Baby G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

BAR JESTER

THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

CAMP QUIZ with free bus. Starts 8.30pm. **THREE FURNACES, TELFORD**

DIVERSITY Weekly day trip night, with DJ Jay playing every Friday from 9pm. **VELVET, WORCESTER**

FLAUNT A

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

IT'S THURSTY NIGHT 5pm-11pm. **THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON**

TWISTED TUESDAYS

Rainbows, Coventry

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open 2pm-2am. Come down in a friendly atmosphere. **THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON**

CHILL OUT NIGHT Free admission. **NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM**

LAUGHING GASS with DJ Intendo. **DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER**

October

7 14 21 28

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery. **MISSING BAR**

BACK TO THE FUTURE (PT II)

SCREENING **Wed 21 Oct** To celebrate Back to the Future Day, join the team at Eden to watch one of the most popular sci-fi films of all time! If you're a fan, you won't want to miss this.

CHARLOTTE PARADE with Charlotte the Harlotte. **THE VILLAGE INN**

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Shows all feathers at Sidewalk. Rock'n'roll menu. **SIDEWALK**

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL Free Pool. Open 7-11pm. **THE FOX**

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Hosted by Halle James with DJ. Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-Late. **BAR JESTER**

WEDNESDAY LINE Line Dancing every Wed night. **THE WELLINGTON**

WEST MIDLANDS

DISCO & DJ**Rainbows, Coventry**

STUDENT CLUB NIGHT

Live DJs, drinks from £1.

THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Karaoke. Open 10pm-11pm. **Rainbows, Coventry**

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON**NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM****KARAOKE** 9pm-11pm. **THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON****THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON**

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **THE LOFT LOUNGE**

CHARLIE HIDE **Thurs 1 Oct** - Live cabaret from the celebrity impersonator famous for her take Madonna, Cher and more. **EDEN**

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm. **NIGHTINGALE CLUB**

CAMPY CAMP with Marty. Happy Hour 12noon-2am. **THE VILLAGE INN**

I <3 THE 90'S From 8pm with DJ Dan. Doors open from 2pm. **EDEN**

LA VOIX **Thurs 15 Oct** - Live cabaret from 10pm with Britain's Got Talent star La Voix! **EDEN**

NIKKI GRAHAME **Thurs 29 Oct** - Live PA and meet and greet from Big Brother superstar Nikki Grahame. **THE VILLAGE INN**

POUNDED £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart and dance on whilst Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese.

October

6 13 20 27

TUESDAY

TUESDAY

October

6 13 20 27

THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

CAMP QUIZ with free bus. Starts 8.30pm. **THREE FURNACES, TELFORD**

DIVERSITY Weekly day trip night, with DJ Jay playing every Friday from 9pm. **VELVET, WORCESTER**

FLAUNT A

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

IT'S THURSTY NIGHT 5pm-11pm. **THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON**

TWISTED TUESDAYS

Rainbows, Coventry

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open 2pm-2am. Come down in a friendly atmosphere. **THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON**

CHILL OUT NIGHT Free admission. **NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM**

LAUGHING GASS with DJ Intendo. **DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER**

October

7 14 21 28

BIRMINGHAM

October

1 8 15 22 29

on the middle floor
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

LAQUISHA JONZ **Thurs 22 Oct** She's jumping back on the £1 Megabus to be back in Brum - it's Laquisha! So cash in your Giro's

THROWBACK THURSDAY £1 20 bombs and great music. **MISSING BAR**

DROP THE BOMB start of your £50 on a bomb

SIDEWALK

SHOT EXCHANGE Drinks price up and down random marks. crashes will have the price being bu

around for

THE CORE

WEST MIDLANDS

12.01 with DJ James Levett. Open from Midnight until 5am with drinks from £1. **GORGEOUS, WOLVES**

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE Free entry. Big value drinks. With DJ Z. **THE LION, WALSALL**

DISCO & DJ A night of fun with

The White Hart, Wolverhampton

40 www.midlandszone.co.uk

A SUMMER SUNSET

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

MISS MARTY

FREE
ENTRY
BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!
10PM-3AM

Fabulaws

Join Birmingham's award-winning
Marty 'the girl that likes to party'
Every monday from 10pm

MON 5 OCT
VICKY JACKSON

PLUS
HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM
DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT

MON 2 NOV
SANDRA
THE WHORE OF
HAMPSTEAD HEATH

C-21

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE.
TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

THE LOFT LOUNGE



loftbirmingham.co.uk

@loftlounge22

loftbirmingham

0121 622 2444

October



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two

THE LOFT LOUNGE

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES DJ Pam, takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics, house R&B and air your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too!

MISSING MAN

BIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems all night long with Missing & DJ James. Open until the early hours

MISSING MAN

SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki Every Day

FREAKY FRIDAY Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. **Fri 2 Oct** Loia Lasagne **Fri 9 Oct** Drag With No Name **Fri 16 Oct** Miss Jason **Fri 23 Oct** Miss Thunderpussy **Fri 30 Oct** Sandra **THE VILLAGE INN**



INFUSION Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

KICK START Kick start the week end from 9pm to the early hours. Hosted by James

MISSING MAN

18R With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday

THE VILLAGE INN

LIP GLOSS - **Fri 2 Oct** - With host Miss Penny. Live entertainment stripper, topless waiter, buffet and raffle. Every first Friday of the month

EDEN BAR

MIDSBEARS - **Fri 16 Oct** - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers with special drinks offered all night

EDEN BAR

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time playing some of the best old skool garage. A night not to be missed

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SAATHI - **Fri 30 Oct** - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ

Nikki every Friday your chance to win cash

MISSING MAN

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul funk rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites

THE LOFT LOUNGE

XXL - Fri 16 July - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early bird offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month

THE CORE CLUB

FUNK'D UP

CLUB CHIC

KARAOKE

THE FOX

RETRO FRIDAY

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

YOLO! Gorgeous residents spinning house and classics. Earlybird drinks from £1.50 with free entry before 11pm. 10.30pm - 5.30am

GORGEOUS CLUB, WOLVERHAMPTON

BANG

THE LION, WALSALL

TV PARTY NIGHT

THE GREENHOUSE, DARLINGTON

CLUB NIGHT

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

FRIDAY SOCIAL

THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

WEEKLY CABARET

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

START THE WEEKEND

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

TFI FRIDAY

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

EAST MIDLANDS

CLUB NIGHT

EDEN BAR, LEICESTER

THE POUNDER

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

October

3 10 17 24 31

SATURDAY

BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS with Dj Dan from 2am 't's back to the 80s
EDEN BAR

THE ATTIC Available for hire. Call the venue for more info 0121 622 4256

BFM - Sat 3 Oct - The launch of Birmingham Fetish Men Strict fetish code in the Eden Marquee from 9pm. Leather, rubber, sports and skin. Special guest La Voix as never seen before

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors. 3 DJs. Open 11-8am. With Dj Lotte & Dj Richard Moon. With Dj Toni in The Village Underground
THE VILLAGE INN

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

FABULOUS SATURDAYS Get the red carpet treatment with your host and hostess Cherib and Miss Hallie James keeping you enter

tained with podium dances and fantastic music. Entry £5 10pm until 3am with the first 25 customers having FREE ENTRY
THE CORE CLUB

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS in The Attic plus music from across the decades
MISSING

LBR With Charlotte the Harlot. Open until 8am every Saturday
THE VILLAGE INN

YOUR DISCO

JUST YOU

featuring the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco house and commercia. Featuring Twiggy and sexy door boys. Open until 4am
MISSING BAR



ALASKA - Sat 24 Oct - Live PA from RuPaul's Drag Race star Alaska. Tickets from www.theticketsellers.co.uk
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SATURDAY SESSIONS With

DJ Simon Baker from 8pm
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything.
SIDEWALK

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4)
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Every Saturday
CLUB CHIC

IN PINK & BLACK

THE FOX

#JUST SAYING

Bar Jester

KARAOKE Every Saturday
THE WELLINGTON

assis in the cabaret round
THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT
& Charts. Open midday-4pm & 9pm-3am
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

INCLUSION with big name
Birmingham & JK DJs every week
THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

NOT TO MISS Free adm!

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

WEEKLY CABARET

Cabaret at 12.30am

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

IN PINK & BLACK

Bar Jester
from £3 before 1am and £5

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CLUB BOSTON

Midnight - £6 after

HELLS KIT, LEICESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

SLAG 10pm-6am. Earlybird drinks from £1.50. Dj Paul Bryant, James Levett & Josh B. Plus weekly guests.
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

BIG NIGHT OUT Big DJs.

October



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE with Dj Nikki. Every Sunday
EDEN BAR

LOCAL CABARET with Charlotte the Harlot. Showcasing the best of the Midlands cabaret circuit every Sunday
THE VILLAGE INN

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm
MISS PENNY'S

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER served

July 28 95

SIDEWALK

CHILL OUT London

THE FOX

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY with Happy Hour until 2am
Open

BAR JESTER

THREE COURSE LUNCH only £7.50
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY 9pm-4am. Fun & Games. Karaoke. Prizes and all round mayhem. Drinks from £2
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILL OUT Alter the party
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

THE BOSTON

LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

CLUB BOSTON

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

CLUB VENUS

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

EAST MIDLANDS

BRUNCH CLUB

Rainbow & Dove, LEICESTER

2010'S GREATEST COMEDY DATES

PAM GUY

QUEEN OF THE SKY

THUR 19TH NOV
BIRMINGHAM
NEW ALEXANDRA
THEATRE

SAT 21ST NOV
NOTTINGHAM
PLAYHOUSE

ATGICKETS.COM **NOTTINGHAMPLAYHOUSE.CO.UK**

ticketmaster 0844 844 0444 **See** 0871 2200 260 **ATGICKETS.COM**

WARNING: THIS SHOW CONTAINS JOKES THAT SOME PEOPLE MAY FIND OFFENSIVE

GOULISH HALLOWEEN EVENTS ON THE GAY SCENE!



One of the most anticipated nights of the year on the Midlands gay scene is Halloween! It's a chance for you and your friends to crack open the fancy dress box and wear something gruesome and ghoulish (or, as seems to have been the case in previous years, pretty much nothing at all).

From Spooky Cocktails in swanky bars to full club transformations, fancy dress competitions where you can win hundreds of pounds and a bit of cabaret for good

measure, there really is something for everyone!

Take a look at our guide to just some of the many events taking place across the Midlands gay scene

Our photographer will be out and about on the big night, Saturday 31 October, and we'll be showcasing the best of the scene in our December issue

Be creative with your costumes because there's money to be won in some venues!

FRI 30 OCT

SPOOKY COCKTAILS Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

THE LOFT LOUNGE, BIRMINGHAM

MISS IT'S MIDNIGHT MASSACRE The start of Missing's weekend of Halloween fun

MISSING, BIRMINGHAM

SAT. 31. OCT.

FRIGHT NIGHT The guys at The Nightingale love a Halloween party, so they're back with Fright Night. Giving away a whopping £1,000 in cash for their fancy dress competition. Plus entertainment from Marty and the Housewives of Birmingham

THE NIGHTINGALE, BIRMINGHAM

MARY MAC & MYRA DUBOIS Celebrate Halloween with a bit of fun and laughter. Eden

Bar in Birmingham will be hosting the show with a bit of top notch Halloween cabaret! Free entry all night long!

EDEN, BIRMINGHAM

SPOOKY COCKTAILS Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

THE LOFT LOUNGE, BIRMINGHAM

HALLOWEEN FEST A super spooky night out with Twiggy and the Gruesome Twosome! Come along if you dare!

MISSING, BIRMINGHAM

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT

Bar in Birmingham will be hosting the show with a bit of top notch Halloween cabaret! Free entry all night long!

EDEN, BIRMINGHAM

HALLOWEEN MONSTER BALL

Bar in Birmingham will be hosting the show with a bit of top notch Halloween cabaret! Free entry all night long!

CLUB CHIC, BIRMINGHAM

HALLOWEEN BALL The last

bar in Birmingham will be

hosting the show with a bit

of top notch Halloween

cabaret! Free entry all night

long!

CLUB CHIC, BIRMINGHAM

SUN 1 NOV

SPOOKY COCKTAILS Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

THE LOFT LOUNGE, BIRMINGHAM

DOUBLE CABARET

Halloween cabaret with La Queta

MISSING, BIRMINGHAM

It's cocktail time at Birmingham's **The Loft Lounge**



More great night out photos on [facebook](#)



Party until the early hours at **Gorgeous** in Wolves!

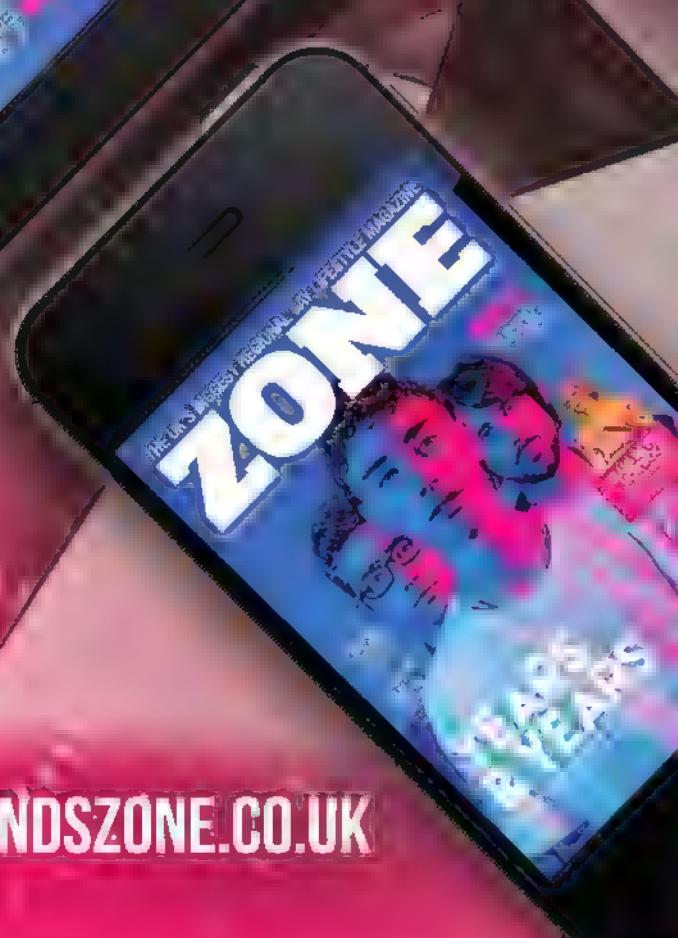


More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



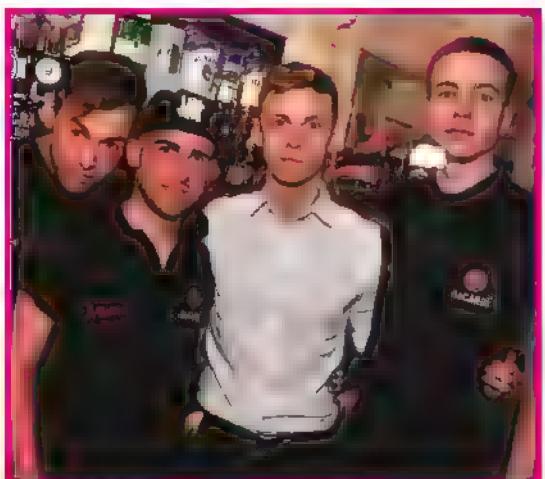
THE UK'S
BIGGEST REGIONAL
GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

READ MIDLANDS
ZONE ON THE GO!



@ WWW.MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK

There's always a party on at Brum's **Missing!**



Missing

Missing

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND

OCTOBER 30
FRIDAY

MISS M'S
MIDNIGHT MASSACRE

OCTOBER 31

SATURDAY

HALLOWEEN FEST
WITH TWIGGY
AND THE GRUESOME TWOSOME

NOVEMBER 1
SUNDAY

DOUBLE CABARET
WITH AMY LA QUEEFA



MISSING BAR, 48 BROMSGROVE ST, BIRMINGHAM, B5 0121 622 4256

Birmingham's **The Nightingale** is a great place to party!



Birmingham know how to party at **The Dance Arena**



The men of the Midlands love Birmingham's **Eden**



More great photos on **facebook**
[facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk)



OCTOBER

edenedeneden

Open from 2pm every day. 118 Shostock Street Birmingham B5 8NB 0121 422 1953 | www.theedenbar.co.uk

THURS
1st

CHARLIE HIDES WHOOO?

Charlie Hides is an award winning cabaret artist, YouTube sensation and man of 1,000 faces.

FRI
2nd

Lip Gloss

with your host MISS PENNY

Champagne reception,
Topless waiter, Raffle, Buffet,

With top
Cabaret

And Sexy
Stripper

SAT
3rd



The launch of Birmingham Fetish Men.
STRICT Fetish Dress Code. In the Marquee
from 9pm. Leather-Rubber-Sports-Skin
Special Guest LA VOIX as never seen before!

Birmingham Fetish Men

@Bfetishmen

SAT
10th

La Voix

FROM 10PM
DON'T MISS ME
MY DARLINGS!



THURS
15th

La Voix

FROM 10PM
DON'T MISS ME
MY DARLINGS!



FRIDAY
16th



MidsBears
Monthly Meet
In the Marquee
Special Drinks
Offers All Night

ZONE

WINNER Best Midlands
Gay Venue for Men



WED
21st



SCREENING OF BACK TO THE FUTURE

THURS 22nd

Liquisha Jones

SAT 31st HALLOWEEN

Mary Mac Myra Dubois



**SING STAR
SUPERSTARS
IS BACK!**
Starting Fri 2nd
Then every
Fri & Sun
Final - Jan 2016

EVERY THURS



90s HITS WITH
DJ DAN
GREAT ATMOSPHERE

EVERY FRI & SUN



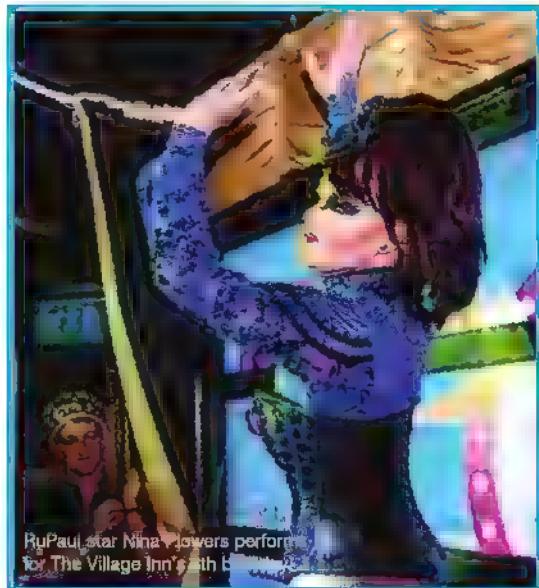
KARAOKE &
DISCO DJ NIKKI
COME ALONG & SING
WITH A FRIENDLY
REGULAR CROWD

EVERY SAT



80s HITS WITH
DJ DAN
POP & DANCE TILL 2
50p FROM 2-4 AM

Get set for a great night out at Brum's **The Village Inn**



Pictures by Laura Byrne

THE VILLAGE INN

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

£500 FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

FRIDAY 9TH
OCTOBER

DRAG WITH
NO NAME

FRIDAY 2ND
OCTOBER

LOLA
LASAGNE

FRIDAY 23RD
OCTOBER

MISS
THUNDERPUSSY

FRIDAY 16TH
OCTOBER

MISS JASON

FRIDAY 30TH
OCTOBER

SANDRA

XXL: The biggest men-only night out in the Midlands!



BIRMINGHAM

BAR JESTER
Holloway Circus,
B1 1EG
Tel 0121 643 8344

THE CORE
Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel 0121 666 6888

EDEN BAR
28 Horsefair, B1 1DD
Tel 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel 0121 622 1953
www.thedenbar.co.uk
f /eden_bar
See pictures on page 54

EQUATOR
Hurst St, B5 6SE
Tel 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
f /The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 46

MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B5 6NJ
Tel 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
f /missingbar
See pictures on page 48

THE NIGHTINGALE

Kent St, Bham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
f /the_nightingaleclub
See pictures on page 51

RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
Hurst St, B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk

THE VILLAGE INN

Hurst St, Bham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villageinnbirmingham.co.uk
f /Villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 54

THE WELLINGTON

72 Bristol St, B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands**INVERNESS**

RAINBOWS
Short St, CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551738

GLoucester

THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street,
GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road, DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

STOKE

VANHILL
3 Stanley Street, ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382812

WORCESTER

C21 CLUB
Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
f /C21Nightclub

THE PEACH TREE

21 Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
f /ThePeachTreeRestaurant

SPRIT

22 Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.splitchampagne.co.uk
f /spiritshrewsbury

THE PEAKS TRUST

GOSSIP
4 Hope Street
ST1 5BT
Tel: 01782 204957

PEAK

93 Stafford Street
ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE HILL
20 Market St, DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRATFORD UPON AVON

POW
Prowd Crowd 1st Mon
monthly, 7 Windsor St
Tel: 07787 642510

TELETHON

THREE FURNACES
30 Bradford Rd
Madeley TF7 4JB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE WINE
Birch St, St
WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION

Park St, WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

POWDER STREET REVIVAL
14 Bond St, WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS

School St, WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247
f /gorgeousbar

See pictures on page 38

THE PRIVATE TEST

Worcester St
WV2 4Q
Tel: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLO
50 Lowesmoor
WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET 13

Angel Row
WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands**DERBY**

THE VILLAGE INN
40 Curzon St
DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

**GET YOUR
VENUE LISTED**

**IN THE MIDLANDS ZONE
VENUE DIRECTORY**

Call: Adrian Parker

01743 281714

e: adrian.parker@
midlandszone.co.uk

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St, LE16PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

NEWTON
94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

PEPPER & COKE
185 Charles St, LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

BLUESIDE
3-5 New Walk, LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

YAHOO
(YOLO) Gay every Wed
Beigrave Gate, LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St, NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Ann's St, NG1 3JX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE NEW BIRMINGHAM
38 Lower Parliament
Street, NG1 3BA. (Gay
Friendly)

NOT CLUB
76-80 Lower Parliament
St, NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440

THEATRE
8 Broadway, NG1 1PS
0115 979 9183

**BARS & CLUBS
FEATURED IN
THIS ISSUE
ARE HI-LIGHTED
In BLACK**

**CHECK OUT THEIR
ADVERTS
IN THIS ISSUE**

**ZONE****BIRMINGHAM VENUES**

For full details and contact information of each organisation go to midlandzone.co.uk

LGBT Groups

ACE A Choice of Equality
Meets every Friday
5pm-6pm Tel: 0161
226 1200

ACTING OUT An acting
group for the LGBT
community Tel: 0161
226 1200

ARTPRICE An arts
group for the LGBT
community Tel: 0161
226 1200

BARS & BOOKS Repeating
group. Every 1st Monday
month. LGBT can be
Bans
Theatrehouse, Holmfirth
BGSU Birmingham Gay
Society Tel: 0121 354 4
0000 Email: info@bgsu.org.uk

DUTTLEY LIBRARY LGBT
READING GROUP

1st Friday, Every Month
Tel: 0121 354 0 2000

GAPP Gay and Performing
Arts. Tel: 0121 354 0
2000 Email: info@bgsu.org.uk

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN

MIKE NIGHT Meets last
Tues monthly at The Red
Tent Tel: 0116 2 77
62501

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW
VOICES Singers and others
every Tues at Leamington
Cathedral Tel: 0192
684 48

LGBT READING GROUP Every
1st Friday, Every Month
Tel: 0121 354 0 2000

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT
Film group meets every 1st
& 3rd Thursday monthly
Venue: www.journeygroup.org

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative
activities for the LGBT. Tel:
0116 2 4 4 200

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT
choir Tel: 0116 2 4 4
2000 Email: rainbowvoices@btconnect.com

SHEFFIELD LIBRARY LGBT
Meets every 1st & 3rd
Saturday Tel: 0114 2 54000
Tel: 0114 2 54000

UNTOLED STORIES LGBT
History Group
Chairman: Lee & Richard
E: dennis@leicesterlgbt.org

WALSALL GAY BOOK CLUB
1st Sat monthly. 11am.
Walsall Library Tel: 0192
500 21

LGBT Groups

ALL SOULS Group for young
adults. Tel: 0116 2 4 4 200
Chairman: James Tel: 0116 2 4 4 200
Paul Finch Tel: 0116 2 4 4 200

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Society
Meets every 1st & 3rd
every Saturday, 12-2pm.
Village Hub, Caldmore,
Walsall Tel: 07475 942529

BROTHERHOOD Group for
anyone transitioning from
Female to Male (18+).
LGBT Centre, Leicester.
Call: Dennis 0116 254-
7412

DRUM IN GROUP Meets on

the 2nd Tuesday of every
month at 7:30pm at the
HGL drop in. Tel: 07532
34 0 0

DRUM DARING OUT Meets at
a different location each
month & time. Tel: 07532
34 0 0

CORBY LGBT NETWORK
Promoting networking and
education. Tel: 0153 630
2000 Email: info@corbylgbt.org

COVENTRY LADS Social
group Tel: 0120 5 4 7 0 0 0
Sister Tel: 0120 5 24 0 922

DE MONTFORT LGB SOCIETY
Meets on Tuesday. Tel:
www.dmu.ac.uk/lgbt

DERBYSHIRE CC EMPLOYEES
Networks. Tel: 01332 207704

DOSTI South Asian men's
group Tel: 0161 2 1 6
1 6 1 4 7

DUDLEY GAY & INSEXUAL
Men's Social Group. Tel:
01384 2 1 2 0 0 0
Email: info@dudleygai.org

THE EDWARD CARPENTER
COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN
Tel: 0116 2 4 4 2 0 0 0
Email: ecm@btconnect.com

EVERGREEN GAY GROUP
Meets every 1st & 3rd
Tues Tel: 0116 2 4 4 2 0 0 0
Email: info@evergreen.org

FAN GAY Social Events
Social Networks
www.fangay.org

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP
Meets on Saturday Tel:
0116 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

GAYMEZ GAY Games
Meets on Saturday Tel:
0116 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

GLoucestershire Gay &
lesbian group Tel:
0145 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

HEREFORD GAY GROUP
Meets on the 1st & 3rd
Wednesday. Tel: 0143 4
2 0 0 0

HEREFORD GAY GROUP
Meets on the 1st & 3rd
Wednesday. Tel: 0143 4
2 0 0 0

HIGH 5 GROUP Social
group for those affected by
HIV/AIDS. Tel: 0116 2 554 1747

HOME Support for BME LGBT
Meets on Wednesday
2nd Sunday monthly. Tel:
07875 54952

LA'DS CAFE Shopaholic
Telford & Wrekin. Tel:
0195 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

LA'DS CAFE Womyns
group for gay &
bisexual men in
Wolverhampton. Tel:
0190 2 2 0 0 0

LA'DVENDAR MOVEMENT
Promotes awareness for all to
every human being. Tel:
thelavendarmovement@gmail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call:
Tel: 0116 2 91 6 1 3 8

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE
CAFE. Leicester. Call: 0116
254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL

www.gbtparents.net
LGBT SHREWSBURY What's
happening in Shrewsbury.

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Group
of 1st Monday every month
at The University of Malvern
www.malvern.ac.uk/lgbt

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT
Meets every Tuesday. Tel:
0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

COVENTRY LADS Social
group Tel: 0120 5 4 7 0 0 0
Sister Tel: 0120 5 24 0 922

NOTHANTS LGBT EMPLOYEES

NETWORKE Tel: 0121 492711

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0161 2 4 6
2 0 0 0

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing
people together. Tel:
0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

PINK SWESTERS West
B'ham LGBT Group. Tel:
0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

QUAKER Meets on
Wednesday Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

RAILWAY HERITAGE
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT
MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0193 8 5 2 0 0 0

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT
Festival, Awareness, Social
events in Birmingham
Meets every 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

THIRD WAY Social group
for LGBT. Tel: 0116 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

TRUE COLOURS Derby
Meets on Saturday Tel:
0133 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

WAGS WAGS. Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

WARRICK PRIDE Social
group for all events
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0192 6 4 4 2 0 0 0

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0190 5 4 4 2 0 0 0

YOUNG 5 GROUP Social
group for people
18-25. Tel: 0116 2 554 1747

YOUNG 5 GROUP Social
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YOUNG 5 GROUP Social
group for people
18-25. Tel: 0116 2 554 1747

MENT'S DISCUSSION FORUM.
A safe discrete confidential
space for black men to

share their stories & feelings
about their lives. Tel: 0116 2 4 4 6
0 0 0

GAY BIRMINGHAM
ME MEMBERS. Lgbt history
group. Tel: 0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0116 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To
share & discuss the
problems of the LGBT
community. Tel: 0190 2 4 2 0 0 0

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing
people together. Tel:
0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

PINK SHIELD Working to
raise awareness of the
LGBT in the workplace &
the wider community. Tel:
0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

RAILWAY HERITAGE
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

WOMEN'S Meets on 1st &
3rd Wednesday Tel: 0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

YOUTH GROUP Meets on
Wednesday Tel: 0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

EMERACE Group for gay
men & their
aged parent. Tel: 0190 2 4 2 0 0 0

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0116 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

LA'DS LUNCH Meets on
Wednesday Tel: 0190 2 4 2 0 0 0

LGBT 50+ Social group
for people
50+.

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets
in Shrewsbury every

MATURE BAY MEN For older
gay men. Tel: 0190 2 4 2 0 0 0

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly
for older men. Tel: 0190 2 4 2 0 0 0

OUTER EAST Tel: 0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

RUBY 5 A mature lesbian &
bisexual group. Tel: 0116 2 554 1747

STONE OLDER PERSONS
Social group for

YOUNG 5 GROUP Social
group for people
18-25. Tel: 0116 2 554 1747

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YOUNG 5 GROUP Social
group for people
18-25. Tel: 0116 2 554 1747

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST
CENTRE. Meditation Drop-in
classes. Tel: 0121 449
5279

BIRMINGHAM L B C M
Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

CHANGING ATTITUDE
Tel: 0115 8 4 4 2 0 0 0

DERBY QUEST
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0116 2 554 1747

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0121 4 3 5 0 0 0

LESBIAN & GAY Tel:
0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

QUEST LINKLINE A national
telephone service for the
lesbian & bisexual

RAINBOW MOB Lgbt
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

STUDENT GROUPS Lgbt
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
LGBT & ASSOCIATION
Meets monthly. Tel:
0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS A
group for young
adults. Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK
Group. Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

BIRMINGHAM BULLS Lgbt
Meets on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

BIRMINGHAM WILDCATS Gay
& lesbian F-Ball Team
Tel: 0121 3 8 0 0 0 0

LEICESTER WILDCATS Gay
& lesbian F-Ball Team
Tel: 0116 2 554 1747

LGBT COMMUNITY Indoor
Football. Wolverhampton
Tel: 0190 2 4 2 0 0 0

OUT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st
8-9th Wednesday Tel: 0 8
4 8 0 0 0 0

LGBT ZUMBA Wolverhampton. Tel: 0190 2
4 2 0 0 0 0

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walsall
Tel: 0192 4 2 0 0 0 0

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS
Lgbt. Tel: 0156 2 8 0 0 0 0

LEEDS OUT Lgbt
Meets monthly. Tel:
0113 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

LEEDS OUT Lgbt
Meets monthly. Tel:
0113 2 4 4 2 0 0 0

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To get your LGBT Group listed: Call Adrian Parker on 01743 251714

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 7pm at 1 Newgate Tower, Cheadle Hulme, Salford M19 1JG. Tel: 0161 426 4262

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THE PINK LINE a social support group for women for women. Tel: 0161 250 9465

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DERBYSHIRE LGBT YOUTH Fenton, DE2 2JH. Tel: 01332 342 000

GALAXY Caring for lesbian City and bisexual young people. Tel: 0115 962 1211. Details: Tel: 0115 962 1211. Tel: 0115 962 1211

DERBYSHIRE LGTB YOUTH Fenton, DE2 2JH. Tel: 01332 342 000

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EMBIE Group for young LGBT+ people. Tel: 0115 962 1211. Tel: 0115 962 1211

INSIDE OUT Sandwell. A young LGBT+ and Out young group. Tel: 0121 322 2626

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for LGBT+ young people. Tel: 0115 840 0000

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people. Tel: 01926 850 000. Details: Tel: 01926 850 000

OUT EAST Youth group. East Midlands. Tel: 0161 811 0000

PRISM LGTB+ Support Group for young people in Central. Tel: 0161 811 0000

SHOUT Sandwell. An LGBT+ youth steering group. Tel: 01926 850 000. Details: Tel: 01926 850 000

SPACE LGTB YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21. Tel: 01543 471 213

SPECTRUM Young LGTB+ Social Group. Tel: 0161 811 0000. Details: Tel: 0161 811 0000

UNIQUE Group for young LGTB+ people. Tel: 0116 254 7412

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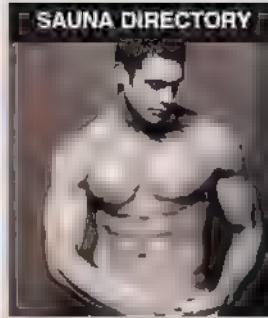
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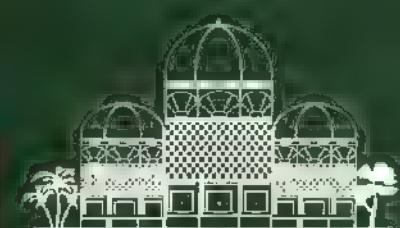
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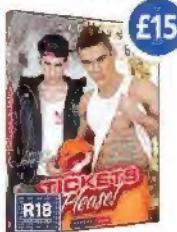
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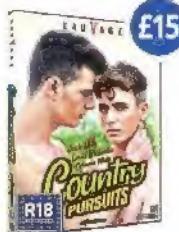
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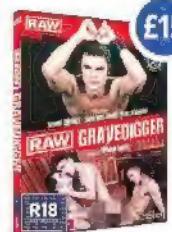
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THE EDITOR'S NOTE by Ryan Humphreys

Let's talk about sex...

Welcome to the October issue of Midlands Zone magazine. With the nights drawing in and the temperatures dropping, we hope we've got plenty to keep you interested and entertained as you batton down the hatches and settle in for an evening by the fireside...



The Way He Looks screens at the Rainbow Film Festival

Fantastic film fun

...Alternatively you could brave any inclement weather that happens along and make sure you attend this month's Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival, an event which annually showcases some of the best LGBT cinema from across the world.

Following on from its previous successes, the festival is this year celebrating its tenth anniversary.

Alongside eight full-length LGBT movies, the 16 to 18 October event also includes a whole host of shorts, Q&As, discussions and visits from some of the films' directors.

If you love movies and you're proud to be LGBT, this is one event you really won't want to miss...

PrEP an NHS reality?

Along with all manner of other organisations, outlets and companies, Midlands Zone has welcomed the peer-reviewed publication of the PROUD study that proves PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) effectively prevents HIV.

Publication of the data means that the ground-breaking daily pill could soon be an NHS reality.

Commenting on the development, Dr Michael Brady, the Medical Director of HIV charity Terrence Higgins Trust, said: "The efficacy of this treatment as a HIV-prevention tool is clear. We're

campaigning for PrEP to be available on the NHS. For this to happen, the treatment needs to be approved by NHS England, and the publication of the impressive PROUD results in a peer review journal will support this process."

An Umbrella service...

And while we're on the subject of all things medical, a new sexual health service named Umbrella is now delivering improved support for LGBT people across Birmingham and Solihull. You can order free self-sampling kits - which will test for HIV, chlamydia, syphilis, Hep B and gonorrhoea - locate your nearest clinic or book an appointment via the website at: umbrellahealth.co.uk.

Out and proud...

Just enough space left to register our admiration for Keegan Hirst and Sam Stanley, two professional rugby players who've recently made the decision to come out. Deciding to leave the closet is rarely an easy matter - even in these more enlightened times - and is surely made all the trickier when you're a professional sportsman. Keegan and Sam deserve congratulations for taking what must've been a massive step. Let's hope that other sports stars decide to follow their example...



ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Trump Card

I was working in the US last month. At the time, media here in the UK was dominated by Jeremy Corbyn's campaign for the leadership of the Labour Party. Political commentators and public alike were gripped by the unlikely series of events that led the 200-to-1 left wing outsider to victory.

When I arrived in Philadelphia, the TV news was giving wall-to-wall airtime to another political outsider, the Republican billionaire Donald Trump. Both he and Corbyn are considered by their supporters to be authentic, plain-speaking and anti-establishment men of the people - but there, the similarity ends.

Whilst Corbyn has championed the cause of LGBT equality and filled half of his shadow cabinet positions with women, Trump has defended calling women "fat pigs" and "disgusting animals", and recently implied that Megyn Kelly of Fox TV News had asked him tough questions because she was menstruating.

His views on the LGBT community appear more tolerant, but he recently told reporters that the imprisonment of Kim Davis - the Kentucky county clerk who was jailed for defying a federal judge's order to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples - had "broken" his heart.

Our hosts in the three cities we visited - Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Baltimore - were some of the most warmhearted and liberal-minded people you could wish to meet. They were concerned about Syria and the refugee crisis, and they were proud that their cities have some of the best records in North America for taking in refugees. Many were curious about the state of politics in the UK and fascinated with Jeremy Corbyn's campaign. Even stalwarts of the Democratic Party were saying they were looking to the UK as the start of a new movement for authenticity and grass-roots involvement in politics.

But while we met many engaging and progressive people, we didn't have to look far to find the flip side of the coin. It was impossible to watch TV news in my hotel without finding the channels and programmes dominated by Trump. This is a man who understands how to work the media. We were told that, to date, he hasn't spent a single dollar on campaigning, and that it was likely he might continue without needing to.

Is Trump a joke? Absolutely not. He has many of the same characteristics as Bush but without the smooth rhetoric. Surely his campaign will end by crashing and burning? You can't guarantee it! The Republican Party elite might not like him, but in this age of cheap entertainment and non-enlightenment, he could make it all the way to the White House.

Corbyn's leadership of the Labour Party is controversial and has split apart the progressives and the political left. But we should be raising the roof for one thing. In our country, the outsiders are rooting for us and not trying to destroy us.

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